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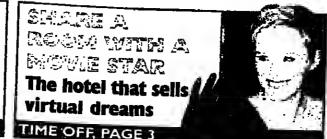
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THE THINGS we do FOR LOVE Ayckbourn takes o the single girl



Murdoch's MACKETTE The woman at hear of censorship row



# LINI)F Saturday 28 February 1998 70p

# Writs fly as Patten book ban throws literary world into turmoil

THE LITERARY world was in turmoil last night with authors threatening to walk out on HarperCollins, rival publishers moving in for the kill and writs flying, after claims that Rupert Murdoch intervened to force the company to drop Chris Patten's brook ch Asia hecause it could affect his commercial interests in China.

At least four writers. Fay Weldon.

Doris Lessing, Peter Hennessy and Anthony Stort publicly criticised Mr Murdoch. whose company News Corporation owns HarperCollins, and called for a meeting of authors to plan action.

Adding to Harper's troubles were rival publishers who yesterday were ringing around literary agents trying to attract disgruntled writers from HarperCollins' list, At the same time, a writ was lodged in the High Court on behalf of Mr Patten claiming breach of contract against HarperCollins.

Added drama came in a memo that was sent by HarperCollins' chairman Eddie Bell to the head of Mr Murdoch's American publishing arm, Anthea Disney, in which he explains how Mr Murdoch felt the book had "negative aspects". The memo also registered concern that the decision to drop the book could threaten the memoirs that Mr Patten's friend John Major is writing for the publisher. The memo also reveals that Mr Bell is concerned that a mysteri-

Y is a sensitive and major book which has the for this book and for his author for many just secured a serialisation deal, hut its author is known to be "unhappy" about the events at HarperCollins.

Mr Patten last night refused to comment. But his literary agent, Michael Sissons, praised Stuart Proffitt, Mr Patten's editor, who has left HarperCollins after protesting at what he saw as censorship by Mr Murdoch who was trying to protect his business interests in China, Mr Sissons said: ous "Project Y" might be affected. Project "It is now clear that he fought a lone bat-

weeks before he was suspended. He must have paid a high personal price for his courage and integrity.

The writ listed the loss of serialisation opportunities with Rupert Murdoch's Times and Sunday Times as one of his complaints. So far neither newspaper has written about the story.

Last night, News Corporation issued a statement that Mr Murdoch "at no time tried to change" Mr Patten's book.

The former Hong Kong governor was to have been paid £125,000 for the book's publication but he could have at least equalled that in a serialisation deal.

In Mr Bell's memo, he wrote of organising a PR strategy that would accompany a decision to pull the book. This is thought to be the source of a diary item in last week's Mail on Sunday which claimed that the book was being "dumped for being too boring".

Bookworm who turned, page 17 Leading article, page 18

# Equality at last for royal daughters

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

CENTURIES of tradition and heritage Exerc to be overturned by the Queen and Labour Government in a revolutiooary move to give daughters equal rights of succession to the throne.

The House of Lords announcement on the modernisation of the monarchy taused near-apoplexy among some Tory peers after a minister said the Queen would not mind such a change William, daughter or son, to become

Replying to a Lords Second Reading dehate on the Succession to the Crown Bill - backbench legislation proposed by Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare - the Home Office minister. Lord Williams of Mostyn, said: "There can be no real reason for not giving equal treatment to men and women in this respect."

But Lord Williams said a backbench Bill was not an appropriate vehicle for such a constitutionally important measur and he added: "We will be considering how to carry this through within government and in consultation

with the Royal Family."
While Lord Archer and his supporters were clearly delighted by the Labour coup, the official Conservative Opposition appeared out-dated and out-flanked. Only this week, William Hague used a major speech on constitutional reform to defend the hereditary peerage, saying: "Our country's greatness is built on generations of inheritance of this sort. The inheritance of the throne stands as a symbol of it."

Opening the debate, Lord Archer, said: "Queen Elizabeth II is respected and admired from one side of the globe to the other and the idea that her great granddaughter should not be allowed to ascend the throne ahead of a younger brother is not only farcical hut insulting to over half the population of this country."

Delivering the prepared government view, Lord Williams said the allowing the eldest child of Prince Queen had been consulted, and he added: "Her Majesty had no objection to the Government's view that, in determining the line of succession of the throne, daughters and sons should be treated in the same way,"

But before he could say any more there was a detonation from Tory peer Lord Mariesford, who protested: I had always understood that in this House it was not normal to make known the views of the Monarch about legislation before the House." Lord Williams appeared stunned

but replied: "This text has been specifically cleared with those to whom reference has been made. And I therefore resent any suggestion that I have done anything improper."

Last night, Lord Marlesford told The Independent: "This is monstrous. The idea that a minister should seek to influence Parliament by conveying the Sovereign's view of legislation being considered by Parliament is an outrage. It is what battles hetween Parliament and Crown have heen fought about for centuries."



... Katharine of Aragon would have stayed his wife and Mary Tudor, their child, would have been the next monarch instead of Edward VI ( who would not even have been horn). Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard would have kept their heads and we would all still be Roman Catholics

# by Mr Gay Universe

By Paul McCann Media Correspondent

NO ONE would seriously consider trying to televise Miss World in the Nineties. The furore would be deafening. But it is a sign of our times that very few people will bat an evelid when a gay heauty pageant is televised for the first time in

Mr Gay UK, which has been running unseen for five years, is to be televised as a straightforward beauty pageant by Chan-nel 5 in May. The 25 contestants. who include Mr Brighton, will appear in fantasy wear, casual dress and swimwear. If they have a talent they will be oncouraged to flaunt it.

The winner gets £5,000 and

the opportunity to travel, mainly to Gay Pride events, but travel nevertheless. The holder of the title, Sean McVeigh, is starring in an advertisement for homes in Manchester's gay village.

There will be some differences between this contest and a women's pageant however, in that rarely did the contestants at Miss World try to flirt with each other: "I think hackstage at a women's contest it can get quite competitive and hitchy," says Terry George, creator of

"But backstage at our do they're actually more into rubbing body oil on each other. It gets quite intimate hackstage and we've had a few successful relationships emerge from contestants."

# Miss World is ousted Oxbridge gets Blair to back down on fees

By Judith Judd Education Editor

THE Prime Minister has given into a campaign by the powerful Oxbridge lobby and backed down on cuts in the £35m of extra cash they receive for

college fees. Tony Blair has decided that it was not worth antagonising the powerful and articulate Oxbridge lobby headed by Lord Jenkins, the chancellor of Oxford University, for the sake of £35m paid out annually in stu-

dent fees to individual colleges. Mr Blair has also thwarted the efforts of David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, and Tessa Blackstone,

the higher education minister. who wanted the money paid in fees to be conditional on Oxford and Cambridge accepting more state pupils. But the colleges at the two

universities, who use the fees to pay for their libraries and tutorial support for students, have won only a partial victory. A carefully crafted compromise to he announced shortly will leave the present arrangements unchanged for next year (1998/9) and will allow for inflation. After that, the fees will be phased out. Instead, the universities as a whole will receive an unspecified amount

of money towards the upkeep

of their ancient buildings. They

will also be entitled to bid for money from a new scheme set up by the Higher Education Funding Council, the quango which distributes university funds, which will reward universities where the quality of

teaching is high. Though the money will go to other universities as well as to Oxbridge, the council expects that both universities will do well out of the scheme. They tend to teach students in smaller groups than other universiries. Oxbridge colleges have been campaigning to keep the fees which, they argue, are essential if the distinctive nature and tutorial system at the two universities is to he preserved.

Mothers' rights THE rights of working mothers

received a substantial boost yesterday when two women won their cases against employers who dismissed them for failing to return to work after maternity leave. Page 7

Europe's First XI

EUROPE'S single currency project passed a milestone as I1 of the 12 countries seeking 10 join in 1999 unveiled statistical proof that they qualify. Single currency champions brushed aside uncertainty, and declared the way clear for the inauguranon of an 11-nation euro-zone. next January.



#### old Karen Reilly, who was shot dead while in the back seat of a stolen car. The driver, a 17year-old youth, was also killed in the incident. The car was hit by 19 bullets, ed two million signatures. vale Clegg, after it encountered

Para Clegg

16 paratroopers who were engaged in an anti-joyriding patrol. He was convicted of murder in 1993 while five soldiers charged with him were acquitted. Appeals were turned down

By David McKittrick

Ireland Correspondent

last decade.

AN APPEAL court yesterday

quashed the cooviction of Para-

trooper Lee Clegg, whose life

sentence for the murder of a

Belfasi teenage girl has been

one of the most controversial

Northern Ireland cases of the

of Appeal ordered a retrial for

the soldier who was coovieted

of the 1990 killing of 18-year-

The Northern Ireland Court

by the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal and by the House of Lords. In 1995, however, he was released on licence after an im-

wins retrial joining his regiment, gaining promotion to lance-corporal

> and becoming a PE instructor. His release led one member of the Life Sentence Review Board to resign in protest, while on the streets of Belfast it sparked off sustained rioting in republican areas.

Io January of last year the case was again referred to the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal after campaigners produced forensic and ballistic evidence which they described as "absolutely compelling". The campaign on his behalf, led by newspapers, won the support of senior military figures, while a petition for his release attract-

Relatives of the soldier said yesterday they were disappointed that a re-run of the trial would now take place. The family of Karen Reilly called on the British and Irish governments to monnor the re-trial. Her father Sean said: "We are upset at the way Lee Clegg has continued to drag out the legal process to the very limit. As a result, our nightmare at the death of our daughter has usually short stay in jail, re- continued unabated."

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INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 . CROSSWORDS, TIME OFF P12 AND P24 . TODAY'S TELEVISION, THE EYE . FULL CONTENTS, P2

# Far-right groups set to hijack rural rally

By Kim Sengupta

NEO-FASCIST activists are planning to infiltrate tomorrow's Countryside March as part of a strategy of exploiting rural issues for extreme right-wing political

Far-right publications, including those of the British National Party, have been encouraging members to turn up in force and distribute propaganda among the 200,000 protesters whn are expected to

The BNP has produced 20,000 newsletters, provisionally titled "British Countryman", tn be handed nut nn the march and at future "defend the countryside" rallies. The anti-fascist magazine Searchlight has also received information that rightwing extremists are plotting violent confrontations with the aim of hlaming any troubles on hunt saboteurs.

The BNP magazine British Nationalist reveals that activists attended last year's countryside rally at Hyde Park, the predecessor in inmorrow's march and "handed out 5,000 leaflets in just one-and-a-quarter hours

... The response from the protesters was overwhelmingly positive and the leaflet teams were impressed by the quality of people present. The far-right presence this Sunday, BNP sources claim, will be far bigger.

A leading member of the **British National Party hierarchy** writes in the latest issue of the BNP-supporting magazine Spearhead: "An example of official interference in the lives of country folk is the campaign by so many Labour MPs to forbid farmers from taking effective steps to control foxes ...

The whole degenerate tone of the natioo's cultural and political life is urbanised ... he would not be attending, as hence the impassioned plea had Jack Cunningham, the Secfrom the Hyde Park countryside retary of State for Agriculture.

These latest damaging revelations come as the march plunges into controversy over accusations it has been hijacked by forces with doctrinaire aims.

An event said to be a celehration of the British countryside, organised by the umbrella group Countryside Alliance, is increasingly being seen as a thinly disguised campaign for the cause of blood sports and the British Field Sports Society.

Janet George, who is the spnkesperson for both the BFSS and the Countryside Alliance, admitted yesterday: "The Countryside Alliance is first and foremost s defence of field sports organisation."

The Government is said to be increasingly concerned at the turn of events, and senior figures were scathing about what they claim is an alliance between the BFSS and William Hague's Conservatives.

One seninr source said: The BFSS is the Tory party at

It was also revealed yesterday that the Labour MP Ian Causey had received a letter from Nigel Burke, of "The Countryside March, organised by The Countryside Alliance" which openly declared the protest's hunting agenda.

Dated 23 February 1998, it said: "Everyone at the March is expected to either support hunting, or at the very least support other people's right to choose whether or not to hunt ... you would, in fact, be marching for hunting if you joined the march,"

Last night Michael Meacher, the environment minister, who had said he would be taking part io the march, demanded clarification from the Countryside Alliance of the letter to Mr Causéy. Earlier in the day the agriculture minister, Elliot Morley, had stated that



Dennis Hopper (left) and Ewan McGregor, voted Best British Actor for A life less ordinary, at the Empire Awards in London Photograph: Philip Meech

The split second on a dark night that

determines whether Clegg murdered

ByDavid McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

THE Lee Clegg case began as an incident involving soldiers on a dark night in west Belfast, developed into protracted legal proceedings, and has in the process come to be regarded as

a touchstone of British justice. By this stage the legal issues have been so overlaid with political considerations that middle England and nationalist Ireland will never agree nn what constitutes justice in the case.

Most Britons seem to regard the episode as the unjustified conviction of a squaddie making a split-second decision while doing an unenviable but necessary job. Most nationalists see it as an example of extreme partiality towards the military by a political and legal system which purports to treat civilians and soldiers as equal.

side. They include a clear instance of military deception and an illustration of just how unlucky Private Clegg was to be

The original trial involved six soldiers. The judge in the nonjury case heard that in Sentember 1990 the private was one of 16 paratroopers accompanying an RUC nfficer in west Belfast oo a patrol aimed at combating the joyriding which was common in the district.

The soldiers divided into teams, some setting up a checkpoint but discontinuing it after Lee Clegg: He has denied a stolen car drove through without stopping. As they walked along a dark road another car appeared, and it was fired on.

The soldiers said they fired because it was placing the lives of colleagues in danger. All specifically testified that it had the leg. Many shots were fired, The facts are oot in accord one killing the driver, a 17-year-



firing at the rear of the car,

tally injured a backseat passeoger, 18-year-old Kareo Reilly. The RUC officer originally

corroborated the soldiers' story, but later weot to his superiors and made a leogthy struck one of their number on statement saying that on one in the patrol was in any danger from the car, and that oo one diers, fearing that the shooting would not be seen as justified, had chosen one of their number and stamped on his leg to simulate an injury. Campaigns to free Private Clegg have glossed over these military lies.

Private Clegg testified that he had fired four shots after seeing a colleague being knocked off-balance by the car. He said he fired three times at the windscreeo as it came towards him, then ooce at its wing as it passed. He said he had not fired at the rear of the car.

That point was crucial, in that the court ruled that shots fired at the front of the car, or at its side, were legal. The judge said that any shot fired at its rear, when it had passed and posed

no threat, could not be justified. The original trial accepted forensic evidence that one of the shots which hit Karen Reilly had been fired by Private Clegg, and

He also testified that the sol- the vehicle. His fate turned on the question of a micro-second: if he fired at the side of the car he was innocent, if he fired at

> Private Clegg was also unlucky in the statistical sense. Troops have killed around 300 people in Northern Ireland, many civilians. But although mnre than 30 members of the security forces have been prosecuted for their part in killings, few have been convicted. Thus, natinnalist complainants say hitterly, the surprise in the case was not that it has been reopened but that the soldier

the rear it was murder.

was convicted in the first place. In bars in England the view is that an unfair convictioo is on the way to being rectified; in Irish pubs the accusation is that the system is ooce again more concerned with protecting army personnel than with justice. The gap in perceptions is huge and, in this case, almost

TOMORROW IN THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Gus Van Sant talks about his oscar-nominated movie Good Will Hunting

■ The rise of China's answer to Thatcher

ON MONDAY INTHE INDEPENDENT

Deborah Ross opens a page on The Little Book of Calm

■ No fun no Sun.¶ Is the nation"s favourite redtop losing its touch

#### CONTENTS

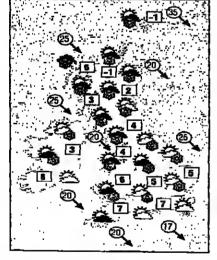
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#### WEATHER

Lighting-up times



Scotland will have a very cold and wintry day with fleeting sunny spells and snow showers. The heaviest and most frequent snow showers will be in the north and west with drifting in the strong north-west wind. Northern Ireland, north-west England and north Wales will also be very cold and blustery with sunshine and scattered heavy showers of hail, sleet and snow. The rest of England and Wales will see better surny spells and just a lew wintry showers.

Tomorrow will again be very cold with wintry showers almost anywhere, although again the worst of the snow will be in the north while some sheltered southern areas will stay mostly dry and bright. On Monday and Tuesday rain and milder air will spread slowly from the south-west, preceded by a spell of snow in the north and east. The milder air may struggle to reach northern Scotland with the wintry weather persisting. Elsewhere, once it becomes milder it will be unsettled with spells of rain and

General summary and outlook

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High tides

Sun rises: 06,49 Sun sets: 17,39 Moon rises:07,45 Moon sets: 20,13

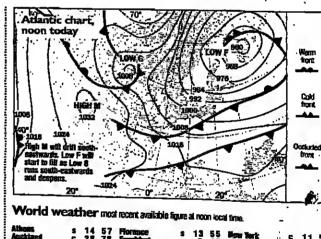
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Leicestershire. Mf J24. North-bound exit sing closed. Use J23a. Until April 13. Derbyshire, A38 South Nor-manton, Major roadworks. Until



PERSONAL LOANS

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"THE second this thing came up. t knew instantly that Anthea had her fingers in it and that she would have done the diny work," one of Anthea Disney's former colleagues at Ti Guide in New York said yesterday, referring to her apparent role as chief executioner on Chris Patten's book. Sbe's a corporate assassin," the former colleague, who preferred not to be named.

IN THE

ON SUNDAY

Gus Van Sant

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Thatcher

ON MONDAY

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DID THE PER BOUCH

INTHE

"Her career with Murdoch has been characterised by her being willing to do his dirty work, including firing large numbers

Last year, it was the American authors on the HarperCollins payroll who feli the sharpness of Disney's axe when she cancelled more than 100 titles previously earmarked for publication.

Around 70 were cancelled because the writers had missed their deadlines, and another 30-odd were junked because they were no longer deemed to be commercially

Disney had been appointed a year earlier as chief executive of HarperCollins worldwide with a mission to turn round its former colleague describes the success of ailing fortunes. At that time she had told The Bookseller: "In ten or twenty years' time I want authors to say, 'Boy! She really cared about us, about publishing, about the titles,' I do not want them to say, 'Boy! She really cared about the property costs or the budget.'

In the same interview she also recalled the day Rupert Murdoch had offered her the joh. At the time, she was running News Corporation's internet site, iGuide. "He said, 'What do you think of Harper-Collins?' " she remembered, "and I said, 'I really don't know much about book publishing." Indeed, for most of her working life Disney has been a journalist. In the Seventies she worked for the Express and in particular the Mail. She was David English's star feature writer, happy to spend a couple of weeks blacked up so she could tell the paper's readers about the coloured experience

And she was known to be something of an operator, a hack who would use all of her wiles to get a story. By the end of the Seventies, Disney was heading up the Mail's New York hureau, hut when they decided to post her back to Britain, she preferred to stay and went freelance.

Four years of comparative wilderness

#### IN THE NEWS

#### ANTHEA **DISNEY**

followed, the only blip in a career that has otherwise followed a consistently upward

She eventually got back on track when she joined the New York Daily News as features editor, rising to become its Sunday editor. She went on to edit Self magazine and there followed a series of further appointments in the Murdoch empire - executive producer of the tabloid TV programme A Current Affair and editor of TV Guide, America's highest-circulation magazine.

this Englishwoman in New York (although she's now taken American citizenship). Some say she's jealous of Brown's media profile, but the truth is that she tends to shun glamorous parties, preferring to spend time at her farmhouse home in the company of her hushand Peter Howe, a photographer.

They met when she was working on a story about Mexicans in American prisons and he was taking the pictures. "We ended up falling into the same motel room." is how she describes the beginning of their romance, "Utterly unsentimental" is how a former journalist colleague describes Disney. "She's calculating. Ruthless is too strong a term, but she does what she says she will do. She's quite formidable and she takes no nonsense."

A Murdoch employee in New York says: The thing that's crucial to understanding Anthea is that she's a woman with her eye on the main chance. And for her the main chance has been Rupert Murdoch. He's projected her from being just another journalist, albeit a fairly talented one, to being ooe of the highest-paid women executives in the world."



Deadlier than the male: An-ex-colleague described Anthea Disney as a 'corporate assassin'

#### Vanity, vanity

It's been pointed out by some that Disney's current official photograph differs very little from the one which used to accompany her New York column for the Daily Mail in the Seventies. Her detractors use this as evidence of vanity and further like to cite the story of her appearance in Fortune magazine in 1996. Apparently so taken was Disney with the accompanying photographs of her in a very fetching leather jacket that her secretary was sent out to buy dozens of copies of the issue.

The Ronnie Biggs episode In 1974, the whole of Fleet Street was struck with frenzy at the news that great train robber Ronnie Biggs might be willing to sell his story. Hacks were despatched forthwith to Brazil In a mad scramble to catch up with him. The Express got to him first, splashing with "Train Robber Biggs Captured in Rio... Our Men Are There", but Mail editor David English was determined to get Biggs for himself. Disney was one of the Mail team who descended on Rio In hot pursuit. In Sip-Up, the classic book on this whole sorry affair, author Anthony Delano describes Disney thus: "Small, long dark hair, frequently renovated tan, the kind of look MGM used to fix up for Pocahontas parts." He also describes Disney's modus operandi as she sought to win over a Brazilian police spokesman: "Disney pulled her chair up to his desk, unveiling thighs rounded and browned to the most demanding standards of Copacabana."

In her own words On her appointment as head of HarperCollins: "Here is my opportunity to be distinguished. I am not going to pass on it, I assure you."

One year later, following the manuscript massacre: "I'm now seen as a crass barbarian, this woman who walks around with a smile on her face and an axe in her hand."

On her boss: "Rupert never said to me, 'Don't publish anything that has any intellectual value.' It wouldn't make sense. People like to be around books with intellectual content, including owners of publishing houses."

#### The future of publishing Disney-style

"A lot of younger authors might be open to having the community of the Internet collaborate to write books," Disney told The Bookseller in 1996. "So you have a book written by a community of people rather than by one person - although one person has to look after the structure and the plot."

For the Record Under Disney's editorship, TV Guide became the first billion-dollar-a-year magazine in the American publishing industry.

# Authors line up to defend sacked editor

By Paul Routledge Political Correspondent

WRITERS lined up to condemn Harper-Collins' treatment of its chief editor Stuart Proffitt yesterday amid signs that some will leave or be tempted by rival publishers who are waiting to pounce.

Fay Weldon called yesterday for a meeting of HarperCollins authors to protest at Proffitt's departure and said she was considering her position: "I suspect that in future if a book is likely to be politically tricky then the author will go to another publisher. I think writers will be a lot more wary of going to HarperCollins. This is certainly not going to make things easy for them or the people who work

idea that writers can be insulted as a way out for the bosses. I can understand the book being stopped for political reasons, and that happens, but when the reason given is that it's not of sufficient quality then that's insulting to the writer and upsetting. I think it is very upsetting to suggest that Chris Patten's work is not up to standard."

Weldon was joined by Doris Lessing who told The Independent: "These hig robber barons who make empires out of publishing treat their editors like dirt. Ive been so shocked by it. It's unheard of this hap-reason we go to publishers. I think that a



She added: "What upsets me is that the Fay Weldon: Writers will now be wary of going to HarperCollins'

pening in a serious publishing house of intellect and merit and now suddenly we find it happening. Mr Murdoch couldn't care will." less about his authors."

Historian Peter Hennessey has already written to Mr Proffitt to tell him that he will be moving to wherever he goes: "If he can take his authors with him, then I'll go. The relationship between an author and their editor is a most special one. It's the lot of his authors will go with him if they

Meanwhile rival publishers have already started contacting the agents of disgruntled writers: "Of course we will take advantage of it," said Martin Neild, managing director of Hodder & Staughton. "We're not quite drawing up a hit list, but there are a number of writers we are interested in. What happens in a situation like this is a general climate of uncertainty."

HarperCollins refused to comment on the story, but insiders said they were feeling rattled: "There is stunned disbelief here. I cannot recall this type of interference before. I should imagine editors will have some interesting questions to field from authors."

"If an author doesn't want to remain with a publishing house there is not a lot a publisher can do about it," said the insider. "You cannot force them to write for you and imagine the publicity if they start claiming they are being held against their

To add to that uncertainty it emerged yesterday that Stuart Proffitt's deputy Toby Munday is also leaving the company. be there for your family. But should the worst happen, would they be

This is fantastically damaging," said one publishing source. "They do a lot of political hiographies. Now agents and anthors will feel unnerved in case staying with HarperCollins will taint your work."

## German driving force for 'curvy' new Rolls-Royce

gave full details of its new £155,000 "curvy" model, which will be powered by a German engine. The Silver Seraph, the carmaker's first all-new model for nearly two decades, will have 5.4-litre V12 engines from BMW, which is keen to ac-

> of the car, built at Rolls's headwill be unveiled for the first time

ROLLS-ROYCE yesterday at next week's Geneva Motor

Capable of accelerating from 0-60mph in just under seven seconds, the Seraph will go on sale straight after its world debut on Tuesday.

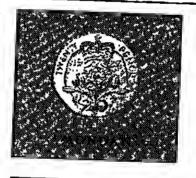
The car has new seats, new hraking, a new heating system quire the up-for-sale company. and more luggage space. This The more rounded contours is the dawn of a new era for Rolls-Royce and we approach quarters in Crewe, Cheshire, the millennium in confident



The Silver Seraph, powered by a VI2 BMW engine, will go on sale immediately after its launch on Tuesday

ris today. The Seraph is the first product to come out of the company's £40m investment in new facilities at Crewe. For the first mood," said the company's sembly lines and robots are the end of the line.

chief executive, Graham Mor- also used in the production process. But the production line moves somewhat slower than those nt other car plants going at just 0.01mph, so that time, cars at Crewe come off as-







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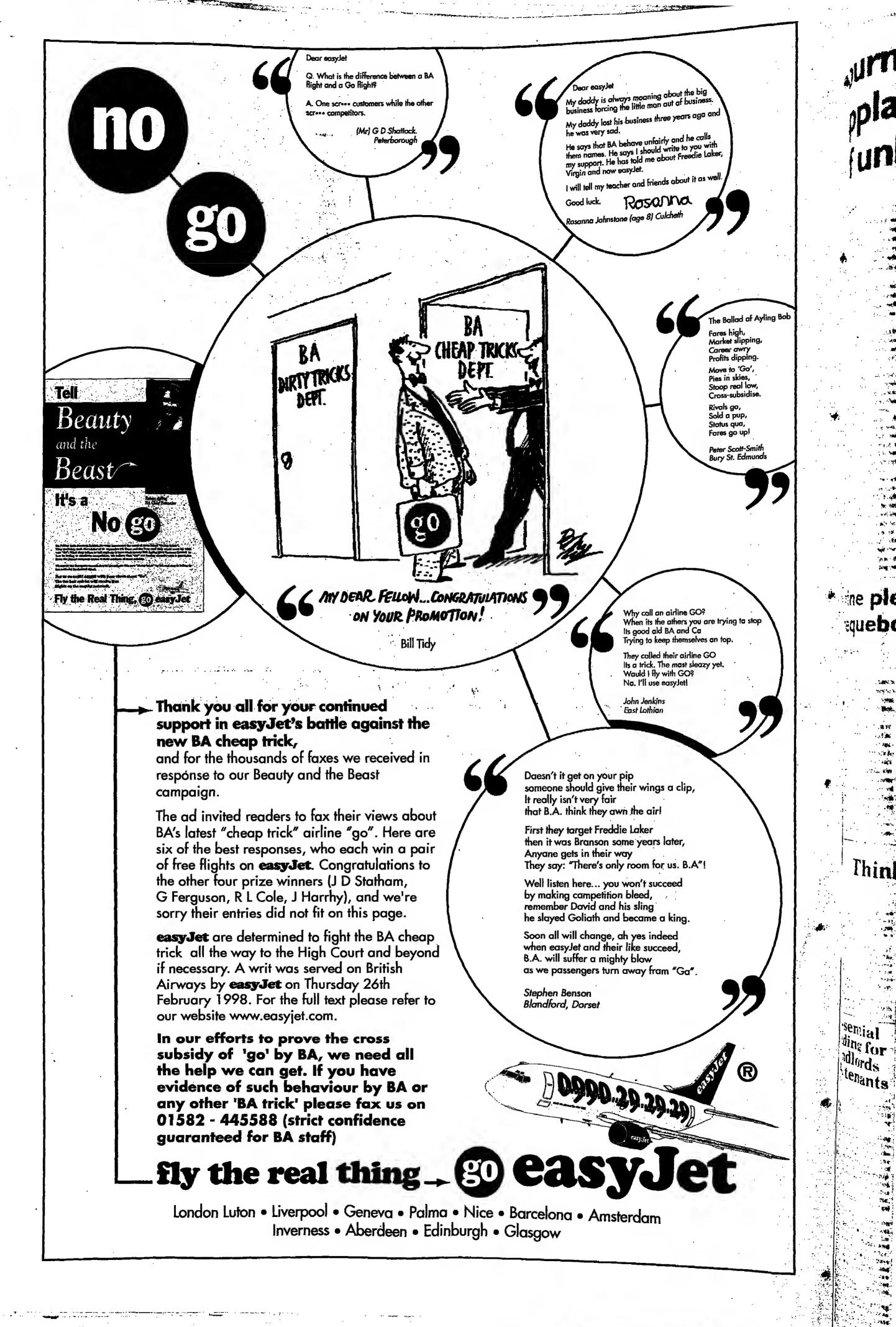


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# Journalist's family applauds verdict of unlawful killing

By lan Burrell

FIGHT years after his body was found hanging from a cup-board in a Chilean holel room. a British inquest finally returned a verdict of unlawful killing yesterday on the death of Jonathan Moyle.

The 28-year-old defence journalist died while investigating the sale of attack belicoplers to Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime.

The verdict was returned by the Exeler and East Devon coroner after a two-hour hearing at Exmouth Commer's

Afterwards, Mr Moyle's family, who have never stopped investigating the circumstances surrounding his death, said that

some justice had heen done. His mother Diana said: "It would have been so immense. ly unfair if any other verdict had heen returned. It has been a long time, eight years, and it has been hanging over us every day. I just feel relieved."

When the body of the former RAF helicopter pilot was discovered hanging in a 5ft high wardrobe in a Santiago hotel room, the Chilean authorities said he had committed suicide.

Eight months later, an inquest was opened near Mr Moyle's home in Devon, But the coroner was forced to adjourn the hearing after a pathologist



Moyle: arms dealer link

said that vital body organs were missing.

The inquest was finally reopened yesterday after further investigations by the authorities in Chile and by Mr Moyle's lather Tony, A retired schoolteacher. Mr Moyle became convinced that his son was killed after being given a sedative in his coffee.

When the body was discovered on 31 March, 1990, the Foreign Office at first accepted the Chilean authorities' view that he had committed suicide.

But it later emerged that Mr Moyle had been working on a story that Carlos Cardoen, a wealthy Chilean arms dealer, had brokered a deal to supply Iraq with helicopters equipped with guided missiles. Mr Car- done them some justice.

doen had carned millions from Iraq's protracted war with Iran and was also linked to the deals by which British engineering company Mairix Churchill supplied lathes to manufacture lragi ammunitions.

Mr Moyle had arrived in Santiago as a delegate at an inlemational defence conference.

He hegan investigating claims that Mr Cardoen was preparing to convert the Bell 206 civilian helicopter into an attack aircraft carrying a guided missile system, which was jointly manufactured in Britain, Sweden and the US

Mr Moyle senior has since spent £1t1,000 investigating his son's death. His concerns helped prompt a re-think by the Chilean authorities and a judicial investigation in Santiago in September 1991 concluded that the young Briton had been murdered and that his killers had faked his suicide. Two years later, when an identity parade in Chile failed to identify a suspect, the murder hunt was halted.

But the investigation into his death was re-opened by the Santiago Court of Appeal late last

Nearly eight years on and just as Britain has narrowly avoided going back to war with Iraq, the Moyle family finally feels that the authorities have



Calorie control: The new guidelines aim to help people keep track better of their food intake

## Food labels to help fight flab

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

NEW labelling guidelines to help consumers work out the fat and calorie content of food were being published yesterday.

The Institute of Grocery Distribution, which issued the guidelines, said fat and calories were shoppers' biggest concerns and manufacturers were being urged to print "guideline daily amounts" on packets to make it simpler for people to work out whether they are eating too much.

Manufacturers and retailers are also being urged to hreak down the fat and calorie content per serving. The institute wants labels to include the information that on average women eat 2,000 calories and 70g of far while for men the values are 2,500 calories and 95g of fat. The guidelines are based on recommendations from health professionals and government advisers.

Joanne Denney, chief executive of the institute, said the advice was intended to be both beneficial and practical.

## irvine pledges new curbs on chequebook journalism

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

CHEQUEBOOK journalism

announced yesterday. He said in a Lords written reply that the Government had accepted an all-party select allitself will be unaffected," he witnesses and pre-trial publici-

"bought up" by newspapers. ernment is committed to main- If the existence of a media caused the prejudice.

of justice on the one hand and of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, maintain that balance and has carriage of justice." therefore accepted them in

"Media coverage of the trinesses, or potential witnesses, ty to be controlled by legislation. by the media run a real risk of Concern over the issue came encouraging witnesses to exagthat head during the trial of gerate their evidence to make mass murderer Rose West when it more newsworthy, or to witha number of witnesses were hold relevant evidence from

taining an appropriate balance contract emerges in court, juries between the due administration may wonder if the witness's evidence has been affected by the freedom of speech on the oth- contract. This may not be the payments to court witnesses er. It has concluded that the case, but suspicion that it is are to be outlawed, Lord Irvine committee's recommendations could be enough to cause a mis-The select commi

also called for strengthening of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, "so that it covers the collective committee call for payments to said. "But payments to wit- or cumulative effect of pre-trial publicity in risking prejudicing a trial, as well as the effect of individual articles". Lord Irvine said: "This means that newspapers could not escape liability, as one case held they could, because the court and make it available a number of them had acted in Lord Irvine said: "The Gov- as an exclusive to a newspaper. a similar way and together had

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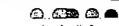
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## Best of British heritage goes online



Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, in Swindon yesterday to begin putting pictures from the National Monuments Record on to the World Wide Web. He was helped by Oliver Dhillon, II, (centre), Natalie Ferris, II, (right) and Laura Edwards, also II, who along with children from all over the country will be able to access the images from RM's Living Library, an Internet service for schools. Right, a photograph of house in Buckinghamshire in 1900 which Mr Smith scanned in

@Calyx Multimedia/Photograph: Darren Jack



# 'Miserly' French are accused on cup tickets the FA are made quite clear." By Kim Sengupta and Jason Bennetto

ARGUMENTS over the allocation of World Cup tickets to fans of England, Scotland and other countries dominated an international security summit for the competition held yesterday by Jack Straw, Home Secretary.

· The seminar, in his Blackburn constituency, was used by Tony Banks, Minister of Sports, to register anger at the miserly" attitude of the French hosts, and to warn they could weakeo security arrangements.

At the same time 22 Liberal Democrat MPs signed a motinn condemning the French an ecormous demand." ticketing authorities, claiming what they had done is "in hreach of the single market regulations and completely disregards the instructions issued by the European Commissioo".

The moves came after the Football Association learned with "astonishmeot and dismay" that England fans had been allocated fewer than 10,000 tickets for the apening games. Only 2,500 tickets will be available for the fans to see the match with Colombia in Lens, near Lille, nn 26 June.

"This is making something of a mockery of a great foot-balling festival," Mr Banks said. This seminar is all about security and this ticket issue will come up in quite a big way. Ticketing and security are very closely linked. I will make sure the feelings of the football supporters, the Government and

Mr Straw said of the allocations: There is obvious and understandable concern by many of the nations participating in the World Cup about their ticket allocations", and added that discussions were continuing. Police and football chiefs

from 22 countries including Duminique Spinosi, security director of the French World Cup organisers, and George Querry, the senior French police afficer involved, attended yesterday's summit. Mr Straw said: "We are having discussion with them, but they have to work within a framework es, tablished by Fifa, and there is

To counter the threat of violence by fans the Hnme Office proposed that people convicted of football-related offences in France be banned from travelling to any other matches in the World Cup tournament.

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There are already similar agreements with six other European countries. They enable British courts to make offenders report to police stations at match times. Mr Straw wrote to courts and prosecutors before Christmas urging them to use the powers more often. The number of people effectively banned from traveiling on certain days has since increased from about 10 to 34.

Mr Straw wants fans to mform on hooligans by contacting a "hooligans hutline" re-launched by the National Crime Intelligeoce Service. The oumber is 0800 515495.

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#### Ex-rugby star jailed for fraud

jailed for five years after he adfund of the man he once re-Neary, one of the golden boys of rugby unioo's amateur era, admitted 12 charges of theft totalling more than £288,000.

Two further charges of fraud, totalling £450,000, were denied by Neary, formerly of Alderley Edge, Cheshire, and were allowed to stay on the records. Liverpool Crown Court heard how the theft be-

A former British Lion was tween December 1991 to November 1992 related to two mitted pluodering the trust funds set up by the late Manchester lawver John Gorna, garded as a mentor. Tony for whom Neary had worked.

The court was told how Neary, 49, a solicitor, had ooce stood on top of the world but had since divorced and was now bankrupt.

Scoteocing Neary, who wo 43 caps for England, David Clarke, QC, Recorder of Liverpool, said: 'You have to be sentenced for the offences which you committed."

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## 7/NEWS

# Victory for women sacked after maternity leave



Labour Editor

THE RIGHTS of working mothers received a substantial boost yesterday when two women won their cases against employers who dismissed them for failing to return to work after maternity leave.

One of the women, Heather Crees, who worked for a large insurance company, yesterday told how she suffered from post-natal depression and had delayed her return in order to care for her premature baby who was suffering from severe medical problems.

Government figures show that thousands of mothers - around one in 20 - are unable to start back at work on time either because they are sick themselves or their babies need extra care.

The Royal London Mutual Insurance Society and Kwiksave. Stores, the two employers concerned, were, however, given leave to appeal to the House of Lords so that the law could be "clarified".

The Court of Appeal yesterday decided that Janet Greaves, 36, who was employed as an assistant su-

clerk at Royal London had been unfairly dismissed.

Mrs Crees lost her home partly as a consequence of her dismissal and now lives in a caravan. She said her husband was forced to leave work to look after her and their son.

was sacked after sending a note explaining her illness to her employers. Mrs Greaves of Giles Gate, Durham, was dismissed after re- "business of an employer. turning to work and handing in her explanation personally. Both companies claim that under employment law, the women had sacked themselves because they had not been "ready for work" on the first day after their maternity leave.

A spokeswoman for the Maternity Alliance said post-natal depression was a major problem for women and the Court of Appeal decision would have a significant impact. "We have to tell hundreds of women who call us every month to drag themselves into or risk losing

Giving the ruling, Lord Justice Mummery, concluded that Parlia- became pregnant.

permarket manager at Kwiksave ment never intended that a scheme and Mrs Crees, 42, formerly a to protect female workers would allow companies to "take advantage of the temporary illness of a female employee to deny her the statutory right to return to work". Such an interpretation by employers would he "absurd and unjust".

He said the laws were "complex" Mrs Crees, of Clacton, Essex, and tried to strike a balance hetween protection of women at a time when they were "physically and emotionally vulnerable" and the

> Urging the court to give leave for appeal to the Law Lords, Elizabeth Slade QC, representing the insurance company, said it was of "extreme importance" that the law should be clarified

The MSF white-collar union and Usdaw, the shopworkers' union, which backed the two women's case, last night expressed confidence that the Law Lords would endorse the decision of the Court of Appeal.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, said the victory had great significance for all women workers who were treated unfairly when they

# Past trauma brings fear to dentist's chair

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

DENTAL phobia has nothing to do with going to the dentist. It is triggered by other traumatic saw the dentist's white coat he experiences which become accidentally associated with the dental surgery, according to a Audy published in the British Dental Journal this week.

One in ten people has a phobia of the dentist and studies stretching hack 70 years show that the level is unchanged since the days of treatment with pliers and oil of cloves. Despite huge advances in techniques and anaesthetics which have rendered dentistry an almost painless affair, the same proportion of patients today as in the Thirties suffer such intense anxiety they avoid treatment.

hia were related to previous them overcome their anxiety." painful experiences in the dentist's chair its incidence ought therapy and relaxation techto have fallen as techniques improved. That it hasn't suggests too afraid to visit the dentist to that dental phohia in both become accustomed to the adults and children arises when sights, sounds and other expeanxiety is transferred onto den-

came distressed during a visit to dation, advised about pain conthe dentist because the white trol and how to stop treatment coat worn by the dentist re- with a signal.

minded him of the hospital where his twin brother died. His mother had told him that angels had come to the hospital to take his brother to heaven. When he thought the angels had come to take him to heaven.

In a second case, a 23-yearold woman associated a childhood accident in which she fell off a swing damaging her teeth with the heatings that her alcoholic father meted out to her mother. She had a general anaesthetic to extract the damaged tooth and remembered waking with blood on her lips and in her mouth - just like the blood she had seen on her mother's mouth.

Dr Freeman said: "Dental phobia may remain at a similar level in the future because life Dr Ruth Freeman, of experiences will always influence Queens University Dental a person's feelings about going School, Belfast, who wrote the to the dentist. However, there article, says that if dental pho-

Psychologists use behaviour tistry from experiences outside. ment. Those who can visit a A five-year-old child be- dental practice can be given se-

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#### Paraplegic loses £1 m claim

A MAN left paralysed after falling off a har stool while drunk lost his £1m damages claim in the High Court in Belfast yesterday. Rachelor William Joy, 37, of Cookstown, Co Tyrone, had downed 13 vodkas and four pints of beer when he fell off his stool and broke his neck in the Copper Room bar in Cookstown in 1989. Mr Justice Campbell said there was no hreach of duty of care on the part of the publican, Michael Newell. Mr Joy claimed the landlord was negligent in allowing him to sit on the stool while intoxicated. Described as a virtual paraplegic, Mr Joy was not in court because his wheelchair had broken, relatives said.

#### £100m for Millennium Festival

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday announced plans for a nationwide Millennium Festival to be funded with £100m of National Lottery funds.

The move follows criticism that current plans for the year 2000 are dominated by the Dome in Greenwich, south-east London. Groups will now be able to apply for grants of less than £5,000 or larger sums to fund major events. Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, announced the plans in Bristol. where he is on the first stage of a countrywide roadshow aimed at highlighting existing regional events and projects.

#### Tribute concert for Diana

SIR CLIFF RICHARD and Chris de Burgh will be among stars performing at a tribute concert for Diana, Princess of Wales, in June, it was announced yesterday. Other performers taking part in the show on 27 June at Althorp, near Northampton, include Wet Wet, Lesley Garrett, Julian Lloyd Webber and Jimmy Nail. Tickets will cost £39.50 and go on sale today. Details of the concert were given by Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, who owns the Spencer estate at Althorp, where the Princess is huried.

#### Fraud squad to question MP

OFFICERS from the fraud squad are set to interview a Labour MP over allegations about election expenses. The officers, from Nottinghamshire Police, will question Fiona Jones, MP for Newark, following the launch in December last year of an investigation in to her general-election expenses. "Officers still have to interview additional people, including the MP, and it is hoped that the inquiry will be concluded soon so that a report can be suhmitted to the Crown Prosecution Service," a police spokesman said.

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# Brown: Budget will be no giveaway

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

GORDON BROWN yesterday damped down expectations that he was about to embark on a spending spree Budget, with billions of pounds being contributed to working families' childcare costs.

In a Commons dehate on women, Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security and the Minister for Women, said the Government was planning further improvements to help people with childcare costs.

Confirming the means of delivery, without specifying amounts, she told MPs: "The new Working Famof childcare offers the opportunity to ensure that all working parents public finances is our priority." on low incomes get the help they need with the costs of childcare."

Conservative spokesman on social of a Green Paper to be issued by if the extensive leaks were correct, minister also spoke of a determiwith payments of up to £97.50 a nation to put women's concerns at week proposed for some families. the heart of government. the scheme would cost "several billions" at the very least.

tax-and-spend politics," he said.

pudiate any such suggestion, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said: there will be no return to soft options in public spending." Mr. Brown said in a Glasgow speech: "With a £400bn national debt, £25bn ilies Tax Credit and extra help a year interest payments, [and] a borthrough the tax system for the cost rowing requirement of £23bn last year ... ensuring prudence in our

While Ms Harman's speech,

But Iain Duncan Smith, the focused on childcare - the subject security, said in a press release that the Government after Easter - the

She said that half a million women who earn less than £2.50 an This scheme clearly signals a hour would be among the first to desire to massively increase redis- benefit from the introduction of a tribution and return to the days of minimum wage; lone parents were receiving help in getting into work; However, in a clear attempt to reand the Government was setting up a "new dialogue" with women.

Women's juries were to be recruited, Ms Harman said, to provide a new democratic dimension for consultation on government policy proposals - an idea that was heavily derided by the Conservative Opposition when it was announced yesterday. Ms Harman said jury proceedings would be held in public and verdicts would be submitand much of the Commons debate, ted to government ministers.



Tories bug Labour on computer woes

By Anthony Bevins

MORE than 150 Commons questions have been put down about the "Millennium Bug" computer problem, with Conservative fronthenchers opening up a bombardment of ministers on the issue.

Ministers believe that the Tories are on weak ground in criticising their record, given the lack of adequate preparation – and serious financial resources ing the double-digit year 00 as 1900, rather than 2000, at the - before the election last May, end of next year.

But Cheryl Gillan, the Opposition spokeswoman, said yesterday: "There can be few problems more serious and

statement has been made since 1 May, despite the Government's assurance that regular. reports would be published."

As The Independent reported yesterday, the European Commission has now joined those warning that lives and business could be put at risk by the problem - which will be triggered by computer programs across the world misinterpret-

Ms Gillan added: "Over three months have elapsed since the last statement and increasingly we are reading more pressing than the Mil-lennium Bomb, yet only one are escalating."

#### Trimble in peace talks warning

Northern Ireland peace talks turely, we will find a way of maktonight after the Ulster Union- ing sure they do not dominate ists warned against the early readmission of Sinn Fein.

At a meeting with Tony Blair in Downing Street. Ulster up the tempo of the talks Unionist leader David Trimble process in an effort to secure said the planned re-entry date agreement by Easter, with refof 9 March, following Sinn erendums on the outcome in the Fein's expulsion over two IRA North and the Republic in May. murders, was too soon. While he stopped short of threatening have secured a tactical victory a a walkout, he said his party was ter the two governments conprepared to take other un-firmed they would not present a specified measures if Sinn Fein joint paper setting out their view

A NEW threat hung over the "Should they return premaor control the process," he said.

The move came as London and Dublin were seeking to step

Mr Trimble was considered to were allowed back on that date. of a political settlement.

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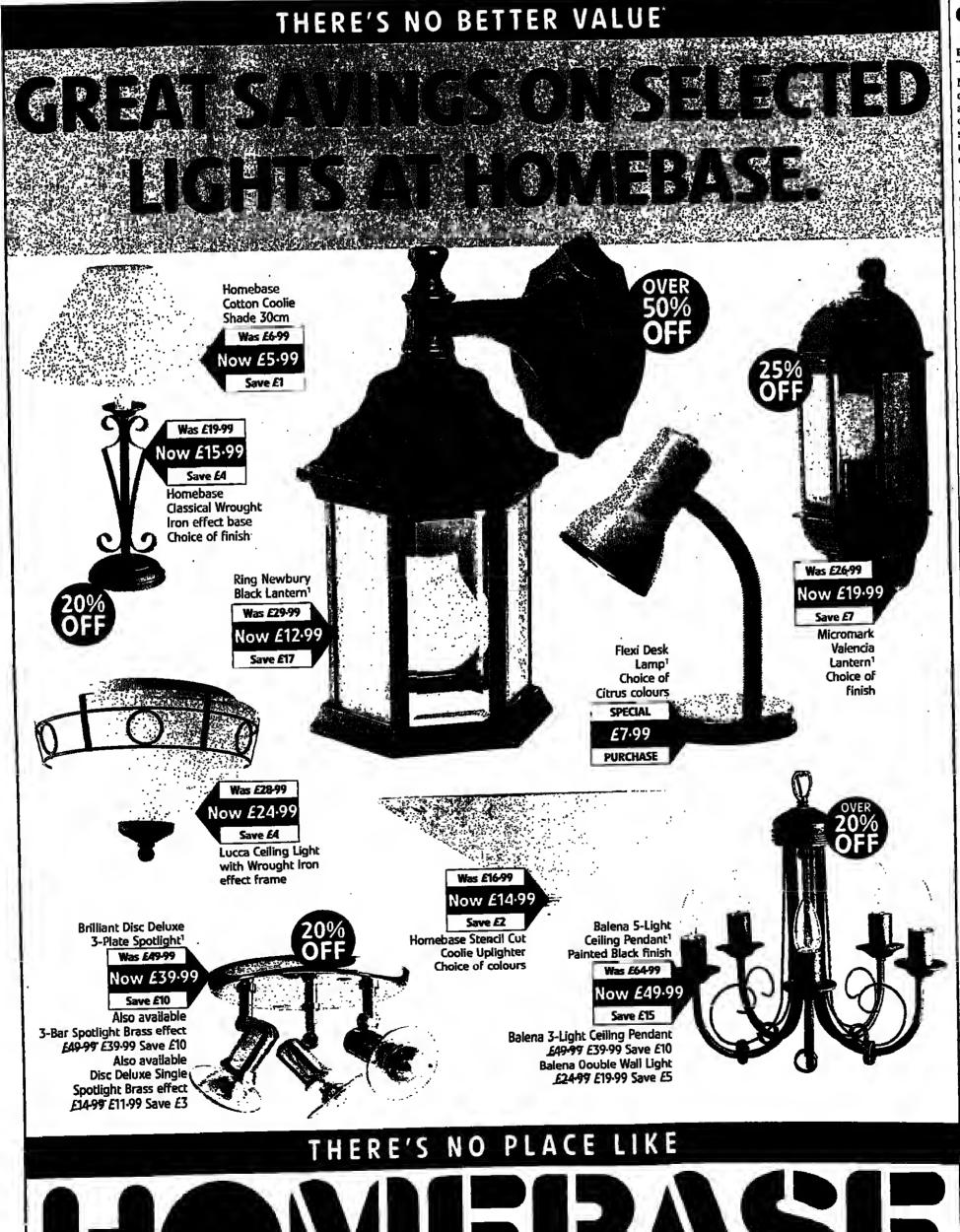
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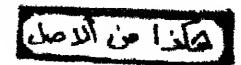
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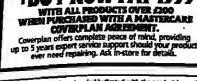
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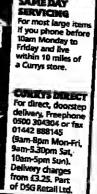














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**VOUCHER SPECIALS!** 

# Lockerbie relatives welcome trial progress

BRITISH relatives of those the two suspects for trial in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, seem to turn very slowly, and I pendently of the relative power Swire said, adding: "They said killed in the 1988 I orbests Britain or the US claiming them killed in the 1988 Lockerbie Britain or the US claiming they bombing yesterday welcomed a will not get a fair trial. A total ruling which could lead the of 270 people died when a way to the trial of the two bomb exploded on Pam Am

At a hearing in The Hague, Scotland on 21 December 1988. the judges at the World Court, the United Nation's highest judicial authority, ruled that it had Britain and Libya over where the trial should be held.

Libya says it will not release

Libyans accused of the murders. flight 103 over Lockerbie in

arives. Britain and the US have repeatedly insisted that the acthe right to settle the deadlock cused men, Abel Basset Mobetween the United States, hammed Al-Megrahi and Al-Amin Khalifa Fhima, must be tried either in Scotland or the US.

the bombing, said she hoped it would be "the first step towards our goal of truth and justice."

Jim travelled to The Hague for To the frustration of many reldite a trial on a neutral country basis - which is what we want, I think it will be a good thing.

"I hope this will now mean there will be a trial in a neutral country, and I hope it will not count of this sort look at some- cember had expressed "very Yesterday Jane Swire, from take too long. The legal wheels thing so objectively and inde-severe reservations" about it, Dr

who lost her daughter Flora in hope they will turn a little more of the two sides represented, it's quickly. It is now nearly 10 years since that awful crime,".

Mrs Swire, whose husband the campaign for a trial on a neutral country, even though tral country and has worked as "for all I know the Libyan govspokesman for the British fami-ernment may well have played lies who lost relatives in the a part in murdering my daughbombing, welcomed the court's ter", he said. Libya did not trust decision. "I feel, probably un- the jury system and UN injustifiably, over the moon about spectors called in to examine the it, very elated. To hear a learned Scottish judicial system in De-

really very refreshing," he said.

He agreed with the Libyan Dr Swire, who is involved in government on having a trial in or knowledge of the case they

the Scottish judiciary depends on the jurors entering the jury box with no preconceived ideas are to try."

He did not think it possible to find a jury without "many preconceived notions" about the disaster. "We want truth and justice," he told BBC Radio 4's The World at One programme.

"It isn't just about the question of who killed our loved ones hut also why they weren't pre-

vented from doing it. There are a multitude of unanswered questions about the performance of British aviation security and intelligence which remain unanswered."

Responding to the ruling, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, said: "This is neither a victory nor a defeat. The court has decided that it wishes to consider these complex issues in more detail at a full hearing. Meanwhile, the Resolutions of the United Nations Security Coun-

cil stand: Libya must surrender those accused of the Lockerbie bombing for trial in Scotland or the United States."

The Labour MP Tam Dahell who supports the calls for a trial in a neutral country, also bailed the ruling, saying: "I will attempt to raise the court ruling in the House of Commons on Monday urging that the British and American governments agree with the judges that a trial should be held in a third country, preferably the Netherlands."

# Winter bows out with a cold snap

**By Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent** 

AN UNUSUALLY mild winter more than 300 years. officially ends today with freezing gales, a nasty cold snap and a real threat of snow in the north as Spring, and March, arrive.

Gales blasted cold air into Scotland and northern England yesterday, blowing over lorries and killing one driver on the Al near Morpeth, Northumberland. Two dozen pupils in West Leeds High School suffered minor injuries after the roof was blown off their classrooms.

At nearby Leeds Bradford airport a 35-seat passenger aircraft was blown right off the runway hy a violent crosswind during its take-off run. The British Midland Saah 340 bounced across the grass and ended up more than 100 yards from the concrete, facing in the wrong direction. None of the 15 taking in seawater at Felixstowe, passengers and three crew, converting it into 40 cubic me-

bound for Glasgow, were hurt. January and February. With long-term winter average. It proves successful.

looked set to be the warmest since the winter of 1989/90, and one of the ten hottest in

February has been balmier still; fully 3.5C above the longterm average for the month. Weathermen said it looked likely to be as warm as February 1990, which was itself the mildest since the same month in 1869.

The past month has also been unusually dry in England and Wales, with only a quarter of average rainfall. Water companies were hoping the drought was over following a wet November, December and January: now they are pinning their hopes on a return to average rainfall during the next two months.

Anglian Water has announced that it is setting up the first desalination plant on mainland Britain next week. The small research plant will begin tres of freshwater a day. But be-The Meteorological Office cause this is only a three-month counts winter as December, trial of membrane technology, this freshwater will be poured one day of data collection re- back into the sea. Anglian says maining, the average tempera- it will consider a "more perture for the past three months manent" desalination plant for was 6C, nearly 2C above the the area if the pilot project



## Man shot dead had replica weapon

A GUN being hrandished by a burglar who was shot when he pointed the weapon at a police marksman was a replica, it

emerged yesterday. The man, believed to be in his 30s, was seen on Thursday hanging out of a first-floor window in a block of flats in Clarendon Street, Bedford, shouting threats at police and taking aim with what turned out to be a replica Colt .45 automatic pistol. He died of a sin-

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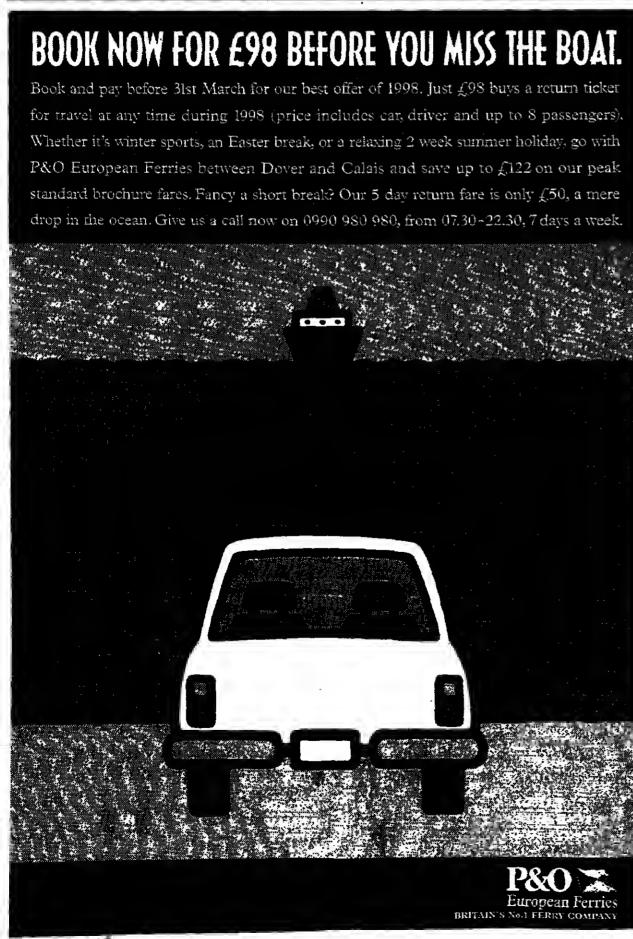
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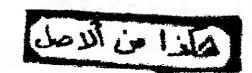
gle gunshot wound to his chest. Bedfordshire Police said the marksman who shot the man and who had more than five years' experience in the firearms squad - was taken off firearms duty after the incident. hut was not suspended.

Bedfordshire assistant chief constable Anthony Howlett-Bolton said: "We regret this has happened but we must warn people that replica firearms have to be treated as real. [The] incident is a sad reflection of wbat can happen."

A police spokesman said it was the first time in more than 20 years that a Bedfordshire firearms officer had opened fire during an incident. An investigation - said to be standard procedure - is under way.







Man shot dead had replica Weapon



#### St Petersburg burial for Tsar

THE Russian government recommended yesterday that the remains of Russia's last Tsar, Nicholas II, and his family should finally be buried on 17 July in the church of St Peter-Paul in St Petersburg, the last resting place of their intperial ancestors, writes Helen Womack in Moscow. President Boris Yeltsin will

his cubinet, which made the decision after a three-hour long meeting - a move that will disappoint Eduard Rossel, governor of Yekaterinburg, where the Tsar and his family were executed in 1918, who had wanted them to be buried in his city.

have the final say, but experts

think it unlikely he will overrule

# Wallis's aide says sale was 'spiritual rape'

By John Lichfield

THE sale of the personal possessions of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor amounted to "physical, meotal and spiritual rape", the Duchess's longtime private secretary said yesterday.

Janine Metz accused Mohamed Al Fayed, who organised the S20m (£12.5m) sale at Sotheby's in New York, of reneging on repeated promises to turn the Windsors' former Paris home into a museum.

She said the French state should have stepped in to prevent the collection of the Windsors' most personal possessions and memorahilia from leaving France. "I counted on Mohamed Al Fayed's assurances that he would preserve the Windsor residence as a shrine, a place consecrated to the memory of the Duke and Duchess," she told the newspaper Le Figaro. "All at once, that's out of the question: every-

thing, from the most royal object to the most intimate, was going on to the sales block."



**Duchess of Windsor: Sale** of her personal effects

no "moral right" to sell the objects in this way, even for char-

She had attended the sale to try to buy a portrait of the former king which the Duchess had

especially liked. But she said the occasion, packed with "oosy people who knew nothing about the Windsors", was a "physical, meotal was "paralysed with emotion" and made oo hid for the pho-

\$13,000. "How could the French state allow the dispersal of what should have remained under the protection of a museum? Did no one care that this was the residence of a former king?"

Mr Fayed acquired the lease of the Windors' former villa in the Bois de Boulogne from the City of Paris in 1986. He said originally that he intended to turn the home into a museum.

He bought many other items from the Pasteur Institute, to which the Duchess left the bulk of her possessions when she

The millionaire owner of Harrods, the Ritz hotel in Paris and Fulham Football Club now plans to turn the Windsor villa into a private home.

The proceeds of the New York sale will go, he says, to create a Fayed foundation, which will perform charitable works in the name of his son, Dodi, and Diana, Princess of Wales.

The couple visited the Windsor villa the day before their faand spiritual rape". She said she tal car accident in Paris six months ago; there has been speculation that they intended Ms Metz said Mr Fayed had tograph, which went for to get married and live there.

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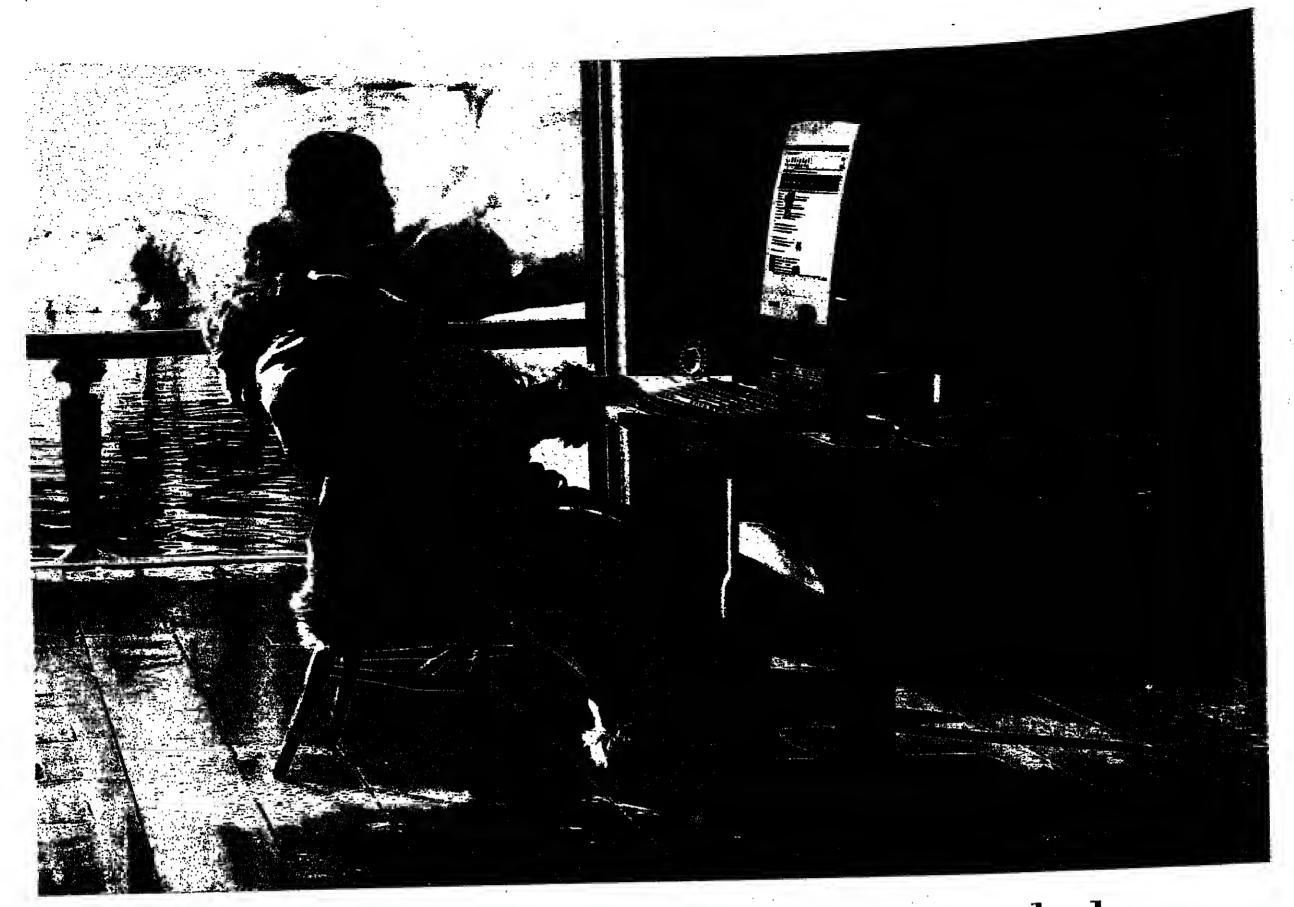
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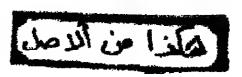
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# \*Pupils plunge 'town of the free' into race war

By Mary Braid in Vryburg

THEY arrived in pick-ups. armed with sjamboks and guns; 300 white parents intent on teaching black pupils a lesson at the former whites-only, Vryburg high school.

Half a dozen young men graduates of the Afrikaans school - formed the vanguard backed by angry Boer farmers from the backwaters of northwest province, stomping ground

of the white supremacist AWB town centre and Huhudi, its admovement. The white meo sjamboked every black they saw," said one black teenager later. Some children were so badly beaten they were hospitalised.

The assaults came on Tuesday after Vryburg's bead leacher, and two members of the white-dominated school board, were allegedly taken hostage by five black pupils who had been suspended from school.

Four days of rioting and petrol-bombiog in Vryburg blacks are now harmering on the

joining black township, followed. Yesterday the streets were still being patrolled by soldiers and policemen, drafted in after Hoffman Galeng, Vryburg's first black mayor, accused local police of participating in

Some of the new South Africa's most vicious power struggles are taking place in the sticks, where the sjambok-wielding white baas was once king and

the assaults.

baas's castle doors. In Vryberg-"town of the free" - there is no whiff of the "Rainbow nation".

It is two years since the high school was forced by law to admit black pupils. At break-times blacks and whites still sit at opposite ends of the playground. We do not mix," said the head boy, Brendan Gous, 18. "We don't want to mix with them and

they don't want to mix with us." He said the school reflects the wider community. "On the

see a white walking with a demanding exemption from black. Black pupils have been recent school fee increases. sent here to disrupt," he said.

He will not say who seot them, but parents and teachers clearly believe Mayor Galeng --"a racist who hates all whites". according to one parent leader is puppet master.

The head girl, Martelie Schoeman, 17, also has no desire to mix with blacks. She said Tuesday's gathering was "a statement" after months of disstreets [of Vryburg] you oever ruption by black childreo

receot school fee increases. This is our school and they want to make it a black school," she said. Like many of friends she bas no sympathy with com-

Apartheid is not confined to the playground. Black and white pupils are taught separately. Vryburg is determined to hold on to its Afrikaner ideotity and the black pupils, now a seventh of the 700-strong school roll, refuse to be taught

nlaints about fees.

in Afrikaans. They insist on English-medium tessons.

Five black teachers have been employed for English classes, but they cannot cover all subjects. That the black children miss out on science is the sorest point, as the old apartheid regime kept them out of the lab on the grounds they that were destined to be labourers.

Blacks are now boycotting the school

In a break between riots and demonstrations, Calvin, 18, said

the fee rises forced him to leave Vryburg High. "And they treated us badly," be added to nods from his friends. But Raymond, 19, said the fight is just beginning. They have got to let us in, or it will be a fight to push

them out of the school." They bave the support of an older generation robbed of opportunity. "We in Vryburg do not see the new South Africa," said husinessman Winston Kekesi. "We just see racism, and the children are angry."

## Germans see the joke in a Eurovision hopeful

By Imre Karacs

EUROVISION addicts beware. Beyond the usual thousand tortures inflicted upon body and soul, this year's song contest in Birmingham bas something special in store, potent enough to test the pain threshold of the hardiest survivors.

Dismayed with decades of underachievement and abysmal failure, the Germans are about to shower unsuspecting Europeans with their brand of wit. The contestant they have selected to represent the country in May is Guildo Horn, the balding middle-aged showman who makes his living parodying "Schlager", the syrupy songs so beloved by the older generation. particularly in Bayaria.

Horn dresses hadly, sings with a hoarse voice and composes allegedly witty lyrics, such as "I like Steffi" to Bee Gees numbers and the folksy tunes of the Deep South - of Germany, that is, His supporting band is called "Orthopaedic Stockings". Fans think he is hilarious. Teeny-boppers scream when "Der Meister" comes on stage, and grannies cover their misty eyes with hand-

But not all Germans are in awe of the singer's talents, "Should this man be allowed to represent Germany?" screamed the headline on the front page of Bild Zeitung. Other newspapers took up the theme. pursuing the star into his dressing room, analysing the secret of his success and running straw poll among their readers.

In the end, only one poll mattered. This rear's winner was to be chosen by the grea German public, or at least that section which could bear to sit through the domestic finals on Thursday night. The result of the telephone poll was unequivocal: Horn was crowned Germany's new Mastersinger, scooping 62 per cenl of all votes.

Horn had only one comment to make about the controversy surrounding him. "Every country gets the representative it deserves," he declared in his victory speech. That nearly brought the house



#### Master stroke: Guildo Horn celebrates after being chosen as Germany's entrant for the Eurovision Song Contest. Photograph: Reuters Fortress fails to save Israelis in Hizbollah danger zone

killed three Israeli soldiers on Thurs-Karkum Fortress in the Israeli occupation zone, was fired by Hizbollah guerrillas to the north, writes Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem.

1 visited Karkum, Hebrew for Lebanon because bere the occupa-

day as they scanned the hills of South hled stone, broken by gun positions times last year. It is one of the most dangerous Israeli positions in South

positions it is manned by Israelis and Lebanon from the ramparts of and sentry posts. Soldiers stared into not by the South Lebanon army. The death of the three soldiers brings to squads which attacked Karkum three an end a period in which Israeli casualties in Lebanon have been reduced. Since January they had lost

THE 120mm mortar round which billed three Israeli soldiers on Thurs- lalong the top of the 50ft walls of tum- across. Unlike most of the front-line lab claimed as dead—two yesterday. Demands in Israel for a with- ambushes or plant roadside bombs.

drawal from Lebanon reached a peak last year as losses inflicted by Hizbollah escalated; 219 Israeli soldiers have been killed and 694 wounded in Lebanon since 1985. The army believes it has succeeded in making it the Israeli army, South Lebanon only one soldier against 19 Hizbol- more difficult for Hizbollah to in- remains a very dangerous place.

But the death of three soldiers on the walls of Karkum, despite its array of modern weapons and walls built with all the protective zeal of the Middle Ages, underlines that for

# Maharajah plays the feudal card to stay in power

By Peter Popham n New Deini

WE WILL re-elect Madhavrao Scindia because he has done so much for the development of our city". This view, repeated by everyhody one meets in Gwalior like a mantra, strikes the newcomer as a

Today the central Indian city of Gwalior goes to the polls along with 130 other constituencies. There are 17 candidates bere, but last time Mr Scindia, now general secretary of the Congress party, won with a majority of 223,000, and no one doubts it will be another "cake walk" for the incumbent today. Two reasons are cited: his contribution to Gwalior's development; and the fact that he is the local Maharajah.

In theory that should be ex-Maharajah, for princely titles were abolished at Independence. But in Gwalior there is no "ex" about it. The captions to the portrait of the chubby, 55-yearold in the palace museum describe him. as Maharajah, in full as "Shrimant Maharajah Madhay Rao Scindia". In the city's main square, his supporters, paign rally on Thursday, hailed him as the good king of Gwalior.

Yet, apart from it's princely bits ems a terrible place. From the trishaw drivers mobbing one like wasps at the station to the stick-thin, starving beggars, from the piles of rubbish and excrement defacing choking black smoke spewed by the stretch tuk-tuks that serve as taxis, Gwalior comes a long way down the list of Indian cities.

to the design of a British architect, rushed up in three years to be ready for inspection by the Prince of Wales, and simple, but it goes down a and it is a great, frail wedding cake of a thing. Next door, in the old palace guesthouse, now a hotel, European visitors enjoy the lawns at his palace where all may come to and herbaceous borders. Nearby lie the flashy concrete villas of favoured retainers; in their shadow a tiny old woman in rags gathers twigs for fuel.

ly doing something right because if velopment in India moves slowly behe wins today it will be the fifth time Gwalior has sent him to Delhi. Despite his pedigree, Mr Scindia is a veteran politician. He was first elected

in 1971 as the BJP (Hindu Nationalist) candidate for the neighbouring constituency of Guna. Not coincidentally, Guna is also part of his ancestral domain, and is now represented for the BJP by his mother, Vijaya Scindia.

In 1985, he had a falling out with the BJP, joined Congress, came to Gwalior and soundly thrashed Atal Vajpayee, now the Hindu Nationalist candidate for Prime Minister. In 1991, he had an argument with the Congress prime minister and left the party, and in 1996, standing in Gwalior as an independent, he was again returned with an imposing majority. Now he is back in the party and standing as the official candidate.

Dynasty and pedigree have something to do with this run of success but not everything. "The fendal background is an advantage," he admitted. "But it's not enough in itself. A lot of ruling families have not succeeded. You have to use the good will as a platform."

Mr Scindia's contribution to Gwalior's development is not at first obvious, but roaming further afield it is apparent. During the Conwho packed the place for his final cam- gress years in power he held a series of ministerial posts which he turned to Gwalior's benefit. "When he was railway minister," says his friend, felthe vast Italianate palace, and the low Congress MP and former foreign fort on its huge flat escarpment minister Nataar Singh, "he ensured 300ft above the town - Gwalior every new railway line had to pass through Gwalior.

Later, as Minister of Tourism, he gave Gwalior an airport, and built the spanking new Indian Institute of Tourism Management on the city's natches of greenery to the clouds of fringe. As Minister of Human Resource Development he endowed the city with the mysteriously named Institute of Health Management and Communities. He has also induced The palace was built in the 1870s numerous companies to built factories on the city's outskirts.

This is pork barrel politics pure storm. Mr Scindia's brand of old fashioned paternalism is most attractive. Every morning be bolds an audience tell him their woes. Why, then, can be apparently do nothing about the dreadful condition of the place?

"This is an Indian city," he told But the king of Gwalior is clear- me. "You have to accept that decause it is a democracy." The implication is obvious: if he really was king of Gwalior, things would be

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# First eleven pass the single-currency test

EMU entry

By Katherine Butler in Brussels

EUROPE'S single-currency France, Germany and debtproject passed a milestone yes-strapped Italy, said they and lerday as 11 of the 12 countries eight other hopefuls had seeking to join in 1999 un- scraped through the key entry

were able to brush aside un- 3 per cent of GDP. certainty, and declare the way was clear for the inauguration

next January. Months of belt- on the sidelines with Britain, as the EMU endgame moves the first wave.

The three hig players,

Only Greece - by its own admission - failed to get its pubof an 11-country euro-zone lie finances in shape, leaving it leaders on 2 May.

tightening and creative accounting appear to have paid off have all ruled themselves out of

> Britain is one of only four countries comfortably to meet brought borrowing down to the cluded scope to admit entry to the Maastricht conditions on point where it is at or below the borrowing and debt in the 3 per cent of GDP limit. strictest sense.

Assessment of the economveiled statistical proof that they criterion set by the Maastricht ic results for 1997, the year on Treaty, which is to have a pub- which countries are being Single-currency champions lic deficit no greater than judged, rests with European-Commission statisticians, They will vet national submissions in time for a final selection by EU

reports handed in yesterday. GDP. These show that 11 states have

Public-deficit figures in Germany and Italy were better just above the target but Bonn than expected at 2.7 per cent. pleads special circumstances France had the narrowest escape, weighing in at the 3.0 per cent of GDP limit.

cause for concern, with only four satisfied to go with the launch of the 11 meeting the target. of a widely based euro rather

about statistical fudging, few ex- els twice as high as the Maas- the strongest economies. pect Brussels to quibble with the tricht limit of 60 per cent of

> But the treaty architects inthe euro-zone if a country's debt is falling satisfactorily.

Germany registered a debt arising out of unification.

Ultimately the decision on who joins is a political one and Indebtedness remains a most political leaders now seem

Doubts about the sustainability of the economic disci- a period of two years before it pline which has been achieved, particularly in Italy. will fuel speculation that sterling could rise even higher in value if investors view the euro as weak.

Britain is in theory keeping its options open but as the launch nears, pressure on the Government from hig business

will intensify. A hig obstacle for the UK is the requirement to join a re-

But, despite suspicions Italy and Belgium have debt lev- than one founded on a core of vamped Exchange-Rate Mechanism, or to at least make sure sterling shadows the euro, for

In the capitals there was quiet satisfaction rather than a rush to pop champagne corks, reflecting the scale of the struggle ahead.

Welfare cuts and social unrest have accompanied the drive to shrink public borrowing in France and Germany, and more can be expected, with unemployment at record levels and

HOW THEY MET THEIR TARGETS

Compliance with the Maastricht criteria in 1997 Deficit not to exceed 3% of GDP Germany -2.7%: France -3.0% italy -2.7%: Belgium -2.1%: Spain -2.6% Portugal -2.45%: Netherlands -1.5%; ireland +0.9%; Luxembourg +1.7: Austria -2.5%:

# Political will triumphs over arithmetic

Analysis

By Rupert Cornwell

THE figures unwrapped by aspiring members of the European Union's single currency may seem only dry-as-dust economic book-keeping. In fact, mendations, and two days later and just like the euro itself, they could not be more political.

question surrounding the euro has been not "if" but "when", sent its report on the matter. and its main requirement that enough counties meet the qualifying Maastricht criteria to though probably not a big make the venture worthwhile.

That 11 countries are now willing and able to embark on the selection of participants will most ambitious venture since the be made by EU finance minis-1957 Treaty of Rome is not a surprise. What is remarkable is that, given the political capital at will start on schedule in Janustake, the book-keeping bas ary 1999, or that it will have 11 been relatively honest.

some sleight of hand. It remains particular who will be President mysterious quite how Italy, of the new European Central which for years regularly ran double-digit budget deficits, ical control over the ECB. conveniently slashed last year's to a mere 2.7 per cent of Gross launch, Europe must offer spe-Domestic Product, well inside cial tbanks to the business cythe 3 per cent Maastricht guide- cle. Inflation around the line. There is also the matter of industrial world is minimal. At Rome's public debt, 121.6 per just the right moment, Germany cent of GDP and more than and France, the two biggest double the Maastricht ceiling of economies, are gathering speed. 60 per cent. But we are told, it Their expected growth of 2.5 to is moving in the right direction 3 per cent in 1998 will under (unlike Germany's rather less pinEU expansion, helping to lift sinful 61.3 per cent which is in government revenues and fact increasing).

But a euro without Germany is inconceivable. And for now is a sudden slowdown that lialy, a founder member of the would see the weaker EU for whom participation in economies under intense presthe euro is proof it belongs in sures to take Maastricht-busting the Premier League of Euro- national measures to rekindle pean nations, missing the single currency launch would have unlikely, but not impossible. been a terrible blow to the

down yesterday by Romano met the spirit and the letter of said. Therefore any objections would have to be on political grounds. To which the EU Eco- were that come it will.

nomic Affairs Commissioner, Yves-Thibault de Silguy, replied:"Don't worry." The final decision would be taken on economic grounds. It would

not be "discriminatory." A few hurdles remain. On 25 March, the European Commission will issue its recomthe Bundesbank, which has taken a jaundiced view of a "broad" For almost a year now, the and potentially softer Euro including Italy and Spain, will pre-

> This is the last real bump in the single currency's path, enough one to throw the project off course. The formal ters at the start of May.

But no one doubts the Euro members. The lighting hence-There has, of course, been forth will be over the details; in Bank, and the degree of polit-

For the smooth run-up to the reduce deficits everywhere.

The higgest risk to the euro growth. Such a recession is

For the "outs" and the "precountry's pride and self-respect. ins" - Britain above all, but also Hence the challenge laid Denmark, Sweden, and Greece inside the Union, and Switzer-Prodi, the Italian Prime Minis- land and Norway who are not in ter. In economic terms, Italy bad the EU-the coming of the euro will further reduce the scope for the requirements, Mr Prodi independent economic management. Yesterday's figures banished what tiny doubts there



Economic virtue: Chancellor Helmut Kohl in front of a banner of Catholic pilgrims in Bonn yesterday. He was meeting And so it goes on: nobody acknowledged: "It's becoming Photograph: Arnd Wiegmann/Reuters wants to feel they are a linguistic a real tower of Babel." 65 pilgrims travelling from Eichstaett in eastern Germany to Cologne

## Translators' business is booming in the Babel of Brussels

#### The explainers

By Steve Crawshaw n Brussels

THE documents are displayed on the wall like a discreet version of a Dulux colour chart. If you want to know about the latest Euro-decisions, you must only choose your shade. Light blue, sea-blue and navy blue will give you French, Finnish and Greek respectively. Or there is a pink, two yellows, an orange, pillar-box and burgundy, and two greens. Pick your colour, take your choice.

In Brussels, translation is a booming business. At the European Commission, a million pages a year are translated into 11 languages at the cost of a quarter of a billion pounds. At the European Parliament, translation and interpreting already ears up one-third of the entire budget, translating from Svenska to Portuguese to Suomi to Ellenika.

That is only the beginning. The 11 languages of the existing Union are set to expand with the addition of five east European countries in a few years' time. All of which makes life both complicated and expensive, at a time when streamlining is de rigueur.

In some respects, life would be simpler if just a small num-

add-on. Language equals national dignity and national dignity bas no price. Officials sometimes complain they cannot understand what is going on if the full complement of interpreters is not provided; more often than not, the complaint about understanding nothing is made in immaculate French or English.

The paradox of the expensive interpreting services is that many officials in Brussels are multilingual to a fault. For those who need translation, however. the problem is more acute. Already, there is an unsurprising lack of interpreters for such combinations as Finnish-Portuguese. When Estonia, Hungary and Slovenia are added to the brew, things get more complicated still, Each session need dozens of interpreters to cope with every possible combination.

Gridlock approaches. One way out, which is being tentatively explored, is to use "pivot" languages as n reference point - a kind of linguistic Clapham Junction. Thus, a Swedish speaker can be translated into English, and from there into Greek. One disadvantage is that the listeners are out of sync. "Aiready, the Greeks laugh last at the jokes. The Estonians will be laughing two days later," said one diplomat.

For many, language is the ber of languages were used - crux of national identity, which French and English, for exam- makes the cumbersome system ple. The Germans don't mind difficult to change. But the which languages are used - "as Euro-Dulux chart can hardly long as German is included". expand for ever. One diplomat

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## Magician of Bonn wins applause for balancing books trick

Kohl's victory

By Imre Karacs in Bonn

WITH a little tuck bere, and a sleight of band there, Germany conjured up a respectable budget deficit yesterday, scattering doubts about its ability to According to the long-await-

ed final figures published yes- Chancellor Helmut Kohl said. "I ter might have included the

pean Union's accounting rules, practice. Both figures are com- with the [German] mark." fortably inside the confines imposed by the Maastricht Treaty.

launch monetary union on time. government and particularly Finance Minister Theo Waigel."

terday. Germany's budget am certain the euro will come on deficit slood last year at 2.7 per time as agreed on 1 January cent of GDP under the Euro- 1999. And it will be a stable currency, just as we have been acor 2.8 per cent under German customed to for nearly 50 years

Relief was visible on the beaming face of the Finance "This is an impressive con- Minister as he presented his flatfirmation of the policies of the tering statistics, seizing the opportunity to attack "doubters and malicious critics". The lat-

low Mr Waigel to walk away with their hoard. The attempted gold robbery was the most desperate of ploys he devised to fatten up the books. He lost that battle, and also failed to shuffle revenues from privatisations into the right page of the books.

gnomes of the Bundesbank,

who at one point refused to al-

Ultimately, it is the swingeing cuts imposed by the government that saved the day.

boom, income from taxes grew little last year. At the last minute, the government slashed vestments by 10 per cent. That desperate action, representing 0.4 per cent of GDP, might be construed by evil tongues as the kind of "one-off measure"

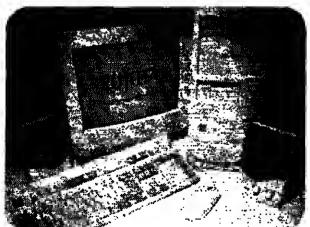
Maastricht Treaty.

Despite an export-fuelled some other prospective members of Emu it would be a small quibhle. The other European states will happily turn a blind eye to expenditure, trimming public interion on cumulative public deht. In 1997, this sloud at 61.3 per cent of GDP, a whisker above the Maastricht limit.

While economists grumbled specifically forbidden in the about the quality of book-keeping, opposition politicians But given the trickery of acclaimed the statistics.

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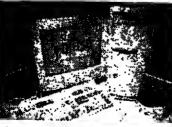
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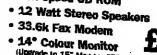


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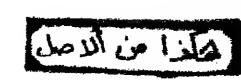
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#### 15/FEATURES

# Double Vision

There are more twins being born than ever. But defining their individuality is still a problem for many. jack O'Sullivan finds out how artistic expression can help

THIRTEEN thousand miles you escape an identical twin. Yet, if you are an artist, even vast oceans may not release you from an obsession with your mirror image. So, although sculptor Vanessa Pooley has beeo separated for years from her sister Veronica (living in Australia), their relationship dominates her work.

"I create female, stocky images, rather like Matisse's style," says Vanessa, oow aged 39. The reasoo? "I always have my twin in my mind. She has been two stone lighter than me for a long time. I'm sure that she is happy to be thinner than me and I would like to be thinner. You have a sense of triumph when your twin is higger than you because it means that you are thin. But I also think that it's wrong for me to be losing weight. Veronica is definitely too thin - she is only seveo stone. So I think it is better to sculpt what I feel, rather than become neurotic, I want to say that these ample female forms are fine. But my sister is differeot. She doesn't externalise things like this. In a sense she

sculpts her own body." Vanessa Pooley is one of more than 90 artists who have contributed works to Twin Images II. an exhibition this week at The Fine Art Society in New Bond St, London. The sale is in support of the Multiple Births Foundation, a medically-based support organisation for families and professionals which is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Twin births are rising fast up from 7,654 in 1985 to 9,726 in 1996 - partly because the increasing use of ovulation-inducing fertility drugs or IVF treatment often lead to multiple births. The fact that many couples are older when they conceive also makes them more likely to produce twins.

The closeness of twins exerts an endless fascination. We thrive on tales of uncanny coincidence, of one twin experiencing pain while her sister is in childbirth

and the like. But sometimes their might seem far enough to let relationship can become suffocating and destructive.

1 have not enjoyed being a twin," says Vanessa. "You never have your own identity." Not surprisingly, the image she has exhibited is of a single woman, a statement of the individualism she has struggled to carve out for herself.

Amrit and Rabindra Singh, also identical sisters, have an equally obsessive history. But in their case, they behave, not as antipodean opposites, but as though they are a single artist. We often work on the same piece together and you can't tell who did what," says Amrit, 32. "We have a habit of dressing the same, we always exhibit together and we make a point of not putting name labels underneath our work. We understand who did the works, hut people often think there is only one of us.

"We are criticised for doing the same pieces. But we are expressing ourselves. We produce what we produce because of who we are. People cannot compreheod the closeoess of twins. Similarity does not mean the same."

Other people's perceptions are ofteo a hig problem for twins. According to the Multiple Births Foundation, the most important thing is that each twin is an individual and should be treated as such, with his or her own idencity. Giving twins similar names doesn't help, because people get confused. Girl twins in particular teod to be treated as the halves of ooe whole and are often dressed identically. In adolescence, problems can arise because children often struggle to establish their identity and as well as breaking away from their parents, they try to separate from each other.

The kinship and the separateness of twins became apparent to Colin Cafell in the few short years he shared with his twin boys. He lost his six-yearold idenocal sons, Nicholas and Daniel, wheo they were murdered, along with their



mother and grandpareots, in a ootorious mass killing at their Essex home in 1985. Their uncle, Jeremy Bamber, was eventually convicted of the murder.

The loss of his sons led Mr Caffell to sculpt for the first time. "The twins brought me face to face with polarities," he recalls. "They were identical yet they had opposite characters. One was more feminine, ooe was more masculine, ooe more caring, the other more self-centred. I could see these opposites that I had played a part in creating. So when I lost my children I had to face these opposites inside myself, the twins inside me."

The piece he has contributed to the exhibition is called Ying Yang. It is of a douhle foetus, one child upside down with its head ready to be born, the other facing the opposite way around. "One is keen to enter the world, the other is saying, 'let's stay here", says Caffell. "We all feel these opposites. When one accepts them, one begins to give hirth



the two babies almost ready to be born represents my sense of coming out of the bereavement journey. We can be good and bad, light and dark, that's what the Taoist principle of ying and yang expresses."

Kathy Ramsay Carr is another artist driven by bereavement to follow her calling. Her family has four generations of twins. But the dynamic in the



to oneself. To me the image of artist's creative life has been the death of her own twin brother, James, who drowned when they were eight.

> "I didn't begin working as a painter until my thirties, when I had my own twins and I hegan to feel better about my own loss. I feit I could communicate with him through art. I feel his strength has come through my hand and gives me comfort. Kathy Ramsay Carr's pre-

occupation with her brother's death is echoed repeatedly in a book also published this week. The Lone Twin, by Joan Woodward, (Free Associatioo Books) explores the bereave ment oot only of twins who lost their womb partners later in life. There is also testimony of those who lost them at hirth. Cynthia Whelan, for example, talks about feeling weighed down through her life with grief for her brother. She explains: "By being able to say how much I miss him, to express my anger at being left alone here in this world to fend for myself is liberating." Decades after the death, she acted out a burial for her twin. "I felt many emotions doing this - fear, sadness. grief," she recalls. "And vet there was a sense of completion, of a coming together for me which felt very profound."

St Thomas's Hospital in central London has a Twin Hotline, seeking twins to help in research projects. The number is 0990

#### Fame, not faith, can make the best godparents

FORGET the dictionary definition of godparent as "religious trainer". If the prospective one is famous, well-connected or royal, old-fashioned concepts of integrity and spiritual guidance go right out of the window. A famous godparent, or even a godparent married to someone famous is the accountement desired by every aspirational parent for their sprog. We were reminded yesterday of just now im-

portant the social standing of godparents is when it was revealed that Princess Diana had 17 godchildren, and that they would benefit from her will. The late princess may well have been asked to appear beside the christening font because of her spiritual values, but the cachet of having the most

famous woman in the world as a kindly benefactor for your child would have been substantial. Picking famous godparents is like a subtle form of name-dropping. I know of people whose godparently roster for their children includes the designer Paul Smith and the actress Anna Massey.

An example is a friend of mine, who happens to be married to a rather well-known designer. "Tve been asked to be godmother to someooe's daughter. I know it's only because of my husband," she fumed. "The mother thinks this means her daughter will get artistic presents and career introductions at every opportunity. I've reluctantly agreed, but I'm damned if my husband is going to have anything to do with it.".

In some circles, godparenting is now a sort of social skill worth boasting about. "Oh God, my friends just collect godchildren like little trophies," says society animal painter Delia Marr, whom Tailer has acclaimed "Britain's foremost dog artist". "I know one woman who goes around saying things like 'Lucky me, I've got 20!' It's just ghastly. It's a sort of social thing, you see. Lets people know how popular they are. And people take on far too many." Not that Ms Marr, whose clients include the pets

#### ROSIE MILLARD

of Roger Vadim and Anouska Hempel, was herself above reaching for social grandeur when her own daughter's baptism came around. "It was hopeless. We asked a German countess to be our daughter Emily's godmother. She gave Emily a marvellous christening dress, and since then, oothing. Dead loss. I always say no, if asked myself. I don't want to be a godparent. It's enough work being a real parent. It's a pain and it has lost all its proper meaning. It's become a Christmas and birthday present thing. And you can't just hand out fivers to children these days. They expect more than that, at least £30. Do you know, I think I'd rather be a godpareot to a dog than a child."

Godparents are a connerstone of social structure. according to Drusilla Beyfus, author of Modern Manners, and herself parent to several god-offspring, "I can't say I'd pick a celebrity for a godparent. Frankly, he or she won't be the slightest bit concerned about your child. They're too busy being famous. A good godparent must be interested in the child concerned".

According to Ms Beyfus, the vogue these days is to have at least four "fun" and interested godparents, selected from a sort of denominational bran-tub, "One Greek Orthodox, ooe Jewish, and so on. At least one of them should live abroad."

The Rev. Peter Bishop, chaplain of St Clemeot Danes in Fleet Street, who does the business at about 30 christenings a year, says that an increasing number of godparents are keen on having a canonical chat before the big day. "Whether they are baptised or not is not of great significance to me, although legally I know they should be. What is more important is some sense of spiritual idealism."

However, even if you are morally and socially acceptable you still have to be prepared to muck along with your godchild. A famous and reasonably well-off inventor might well be a good choice. Perfect for those exciting Christmas presents. "Oh God no," says Sir Clive Sinclair. "I was once asked and I said I can't, I'm an atheist. Actually I think I did have a couple, once, but I can't say I looked after them. Sort of lost them, or forgot about them."

Rosie Millard is the BBC's arts correspondent. Her daughter is being christened tomorrow and the godparents include a TV director, and a media lawyer with his own plane.

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A tale of two cities

Barcelona

Renowned as Europe's most exciting city, Barcelona is a stylish, architecturally stunning, capital of Catalonia and a supurb destination for a short of Gaudi and others make The capital and geographical These include the Prado, the



gone a huge transformation and is a delight to wander find in any other second city. cosmopolitan city that is the round and explore. The wonderful Modernist architecture Madrid

break. Since the 1992 Olympic every street a visual treat and Games, Barcelona has under- in addition, there are many more places to visit than you will

a short break. Apart from the life, Madrid's main attraction is its outstanding art galleries.

heart of Spain, Madrid is a live- Reina Sofia, together they ly, booming city that is ideal for make one of the finest collections in the world. The beauexcellent shopping and night tiful medieval cities of Toledo. Avila and Segovia are all with-

in 90 minutes of Madrid.

#### Accomodation

Barcelona

departures from Heathrow, Gatwick, Birmingham ★★ Hotel Adagio from 199pp Well located for sightseeing, situated in a quiet street in the heart of the Gothic Quarter.

★★★ Hotel Gaudi from £209pp

Overlonking the impressive Guell Palace, in prime location just 50 metres from Las Ramhles and Barcelona's tempting shops, bars and restaurants.

\*\*\* Hotel Almirante from £219pp

Enjoying a prime city location, the Almirante is well placed for many of Barcelona's main sights and a short walk from the magnificent Cathedral and port. £7 supp pppn for Mon - Thu

departures from Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester and Glasgow \*\*\* Hotel Regina from £179pp

Boasting an excellent position, the Regina is within easy walking distance of the main museums and only 100 metres from the lively Puerta del Sol.

\*\*\* Hotel Riena Victoria from £229pp

Built at the turn of the century and situated in the heart of Old Madrid in the Plaza Sant'Ana, the Riena Victoria is very conveniently placed for the Prado museum and the main shopping area and close to many of Madrid's best restaurants. £2 supp pppn for Mon - Thu arrivals

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## One Company makes three a crowd...

Synge's 'Shadow' puts Yeats in the shade: Paul Taylor on an RSC trilogy

Three plays in an hour and a quarter? Sounds more like something you'd associate with the Reduced Shakespeare Company than with the Royal Shakespeare Company. It's intensity, of course, not duration that matters where a theatrical experience is concerned and so, in prospect, a trio of powerful Irish one-acters - two by JM Synge, the other by WB Yeats - looked like a highly tempting proposition from the RSC. But, in the event, despite many local pleasures, these pieces fail to work as the kind of triptych where the whole lends added meaning to the parts.

A proportion of the hlame lies with the staging, which gives rise to some dubious interpretative decisions. The audience sits in banks on both sides of the long central acting area. Director John Crowley has tried to make a virtue of the fact that the transitions from one play to another have to happen in full view by presenting the three plays in a seamless flow. So, at the end of Riders to the Sea -Synge's hleak Lorca-like focus on the desolation of a family of women who learn that they have now lost all their menfolk to the waves - Stella McCusker's grim, heart-breaking mother stiddenly slaps the corpse of the son she has been laying out with such ritualistic dignity; the actor springs up and, to loud whoops and a jaunty communal dance, the action segues into the mischievous black comedy of the same author's The Shadow of the Glen.

You can see the reasoning behind this. Shadow begins with a most unorthodox wake (just an isolated woman and the body of her elderly unloving husband, who is only pretending to be dead to test her fidelity). So why not modulate into this with an abrupt gleeful wake for a playfully resurrected man? Well, one objection is that, for me, the effect felt like a desecration and betrayal of the tragic mood so austerely established in Riders. Second, the woman's hitter, curmudgeonly husband (Lalor Roddy), popping into hed at the start and lying doggo, made a point of letting us see that this was a con trick, which robbed the play of



Mairead McKinley in 'Shadows' Neil Libbert

though Hermione were to tip the audience the wink that she wasn't really just an inert statue at the start of the great coming-to-life scene in The Winter's Tale.

Mairead McKinley is excellent in both plays, as the more intense and confrontational of the daughters in Riders and as the wife, driven first to pained shrewishness by her meanminded spouse and then into the arms of a shy, visiting tramp with the poetic gift of the gab. People who enjoy the comedy of current wunderkind Martin McDonagh will find here the wonderful genuine article he ruthlessly imitates. But Shadow and Riders combined prove to be a far from ideal preparation for the final piece, Yeats's Purgatory - a passionate, starkly abstract demonstration of sin recycling itself through the generations. It's a great play, like some compressed, ghastly and ghostly negation of the redemption-over-time in Shakespeare's late romances. But it made more of an impact when it was given as part of a recent Yeats season at the little Pentameters Theatre in Hampstead. Here, it's in the right Company but the wrong company. The Other Place, RSC, Stratford. Booking: 01789 295623



In search of full houses (with or without the fourth wall): Alan Ayckbourn outside the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough

Photograph: John Anderson/Guzelian

# A room with a (partial) view

Alan Ayckbourn's latest play takes the lid off the sex life of the single girl. Another tall storey, says Jasper Rees, to add to the other fifty-one

Alan Ayckbourn's pied-à-terre, in a swankily converted Victorian wharf in Wapping, could be a set from one of his own plays. The low ceiling is impaled by girders thrusting through the whole huilding, there's a small open kitchen off the plushly neutral sitting-room, and the Thames flows just under the French windows. The trio of failed suicides in Absurd Person Singular could have ended it all right here by jumping off their creator's balcony.

The brown-brick walls are lined with Evening Standard Drama Awards, each with a comical set of conical breasts. There are seven in all, dating back to 1973. One stops the office door. Last month they were joined by a similarly endowed Lloyds won for Things We Do for Love. It is his 52nd play, he is approaching 30 years as artistic director of the Stephen Joseph Theatre. It opens this week in the West End, where for a while Ayckbourn's plays have lacked the impact they once had. The omens are good. This is only the second occasion in 52 that Ayckbourn has been able to put a house with storeys on-stage. The other was A Small Family Business, at the Olivier Theatre, which took over film in rep 10 years ago.

Things We Do for Love is set in three converted flats, but only the bottom half of the top flat and the top half of the bottom flat are visible. Most of the action takes place on the first floor, where Barbara, a single woman in her early 40s, lives an apparently contented life uncluttered by sex. Her helpful downstairs neighbour, Gilbert, is a widower who, it turns out, is so obsessed with her that he's painting a pornographic portrait on his ceiling. Into the upstairs flat move Nikki, Barbara's doting best friend from school, and Hamish, the latest unsuitable man in her life. When Barbara and Hamish meet, it's hate at first sight, but by the end of Act

lines, making frenetic love on the bed.

Line of Fire with a fellow CIA agent (female). "It's shot from floor level," says Ayckbourn. "They're credibly lonely, I also wanted to look at the way taking off all this body armour and guns and handcuffs and all you see is this stuff showering on the floor until you hear, 'Beep beep beep ... yeah, yeah, we'll be in in 10 minutes. Oh, Christ, we gotta put all this on again. It's a wonderful see scene and I thought I'd love to shoot a stage play from the feet."

Ayckbourn has written plays that make use of the horizontal triptych (see panel), but the three-tier stack is new. Ever since the theatre moved to bigger premises in 1995, multi-level designs have been ungainly on the Stephen Joseph's in-the-round main stage. So this time he mounted it in the McCarthy, the theatre's smaller stage. "I was very worried it would become known as" our 'studio', a space where you put on plays for brownie points that nobody wants to see. So I wanted to put my money where my mouth was."

The structural trickery stems from "a desire to make it more interesting". First, though, comes one for Ayckbourn and also a very modish one:

Believe it or not, the inspiration for this scene advantages; you sometimes see heavily married comes from Qint Eastwood's encounter in In the people look at single people with a glimmer of envy. It also has its negative sides: you're inyou can suddenly no longer be honourable. Barbara honestly believes that you don't hugger up your best friend's life. The scene where they tell Nikki is the nearest thing to Hansel and Gretel, with the parents saying, We're going to take you into the woods and dump you."

The play was written, as usual, in a hlizzard of speed: three weeks flat. When Michael Winner wanted to film A Chorus of Disapproval, he pinned Ayckbourn down in this very flat and refused to leave without a screenplay. "I went into the study and he sat here smoking cigars and I wrote the film script in eight hours and I gave it to him at the end of the day and said, 'Now fuck off.'"

The production line has now spewed forth play No 53, called Comic Potential, which will be premicred this spring. It's set in the future in a lowbudget TV station which makes daytime soaps using androids as actors. A young writer turns up Playwright of the Year Award, which Ayckbourn the theme, in this case a surprisingly unfamiliar who wants to work in an outmoded, non-PC genre called "comedy". One of the female robots, who

One they're in the upstains flat, shucking off their sex and the single girl. "I wanted to write about starts corpsing at his lines, diagnoses her laugh-dothes and tantalisingly out of the audience's significant the destructive effects of love. Barbara helieves ter as a "fault". "It's really about the nature of she has escaped the disease. She has got all the humour," says Ayckbourn. "Are comedians sick people? I think they have things that, if you're actually being very strict, you'd probably get rid of tiny lesions in the brain which cause us to sometimes think, how the hell did they think of that?"

For all his formal originality, Ayckbourn doesn't see himself in that category, but there is clearly a fecundity there that allows the ideas to spill out so reliably. This year he has four more plays to write: a 50-minute piece for the BT National Connections, his hiannual children's play for Scarborough, his next play for adults and, ending a long dissociation from the National, an adaptation of Ostrovsky's The Forest for Trevor Nunn. "The trouble is, I'm not quite sure how good an adapter I am. I tend to go off in my own world. I think what they're going to get is a play called The Wood for the Trees.'

I ask him why he hasn't had one of his own plays on at the National since A Small Family Business. It certainly looks as if the now-departed Richard Eyre thought less highly of him than had his predecessor, Peter Hall. "Richard and I met and he said. 'I'd very much like you to write children's shows.' And I said, 'Sure, fine, but can I write some adult ones?' I sent him two and they didn't like One thing, I suppose, is that I said quite early on, 'I don't really want to write for the Cottesloe. It seems to me a very good space for younger, newer dramatists, but I work in that all my life - the one that really interests me is the Olivier."

Things We Do for Love is an Olivier-sized play which, like A Small Family Business, culminates in an act of prolonged violence triggered by a brilliant bit of comic husiness. A German director once phoned Ayckbourn to find out how many times the murder victim should be smashed over the head in A Small Family Business to make it unfunny. "I said, 'Oddly enough, seven.' He said, 'Really?' Ve are doing only three.' I said, 'Oh, no, that's not convincing. Seven. They laugh on one, two and three; they're giggling at four; five they're beginning to think, fuck, what's going on? Six oh, no!' I thought, what a stupid question, and then I thought, it's not a stupid question. It was my instinct when I was directing it to say. 'Keep going, keep going."

Things We Do for Love: from Tues, Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, London W1 (0171-494 5065)

#### THE HOUSES THAT AYCKBOURN BUILT

How the Other Half Loves (1969): cuts between two dinner parties that take place on consecutive days but at which the guests are the same.

Bedroom Farce (1975): the action takes place in a triptych of bedrooms set alongside one another.

The Norman Conquests (1973): a trilogy of plays in which the same set of events are seen from three different perspectives. Sisterly Feelings (1979): a toss of a coin decides which of the play's two alternative middle sections the audience gets to see. Taking Steps (1979): the action takes place

on three floors of a house, set side by side.

Way Upstream (1981): set on a river with, depending where and which night you saw it, a pool full of real water and real rain. Intimate Exchanges (1982): a play with 16 possible endings.

A Small Family Business (1987): a crosssection of an entire house stands on-stage. Communicating Doors (1994): the characters go back in time through the eponymous hotel bedroom doors. Things We Do for Love (1997): the action takes place in three flats set on top of each other, but only the top half of the bottom flat and the bottom half of the top

Bloomberg are sponsoring the re-opening celebrations of the Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 > Britain's most popular contemporary art gallery > The Gallery opens to the public on Saturday 28th February, admission free > For further information call 0171 402 6075 > Make it your business to be there.

BEING GOOD IN BUSINESS IS

SERPENTINE GALLERY RE-OPENS 28.298 ]

#### A WEEK IN THE ARTS DAVID LISTER

Can shit be art? If so, then the converse is also prohable. This is a legitimate matter of debate, a matter of scholarship, even a matter of high fashion, at the end of a week that saw the great, the good and the glitzy paying homage to 32 cans of the stuff at three separate private views over three nights at the newly renovated Serpentine Gallery.

They were the work (or waste, decending on your viewpoint) of Piero Manzoni, the late Italian conceptualist. He called the cans Merda d'artista, which needs no translation. The Serpentine, which has just spent £3m of lottery money on its reopening, is the gallery of which Princess Diana was patron, and she would have presided over its reopening parties had she lived.

I watched Harry Enfield. Rory Bremner, Ffion Jenkins, Zandra Rhodes and (lest anyone doubt the eclecticism of private view guest lists) a Danish midfielder currently playing for Tottenham Hotspur, all puzzling over a glass display case con-

taining the said cans of excrement. It is easy to scoff at such things, though Messrs Enfield and Bremner of course, being comedians, remained sombre. But rather than scoff, I sought information from the

Venice Biennale, so knows more than most about Merda d'artista.

It turns out that Manzoni produced the work in 1961, at the height of Italy's post-war boom, as a signed and numbered edition of 90 that were weighed and sold for the equivalent of the current market rate of gold. Their labels describe the contents as 30 grams of artist's excrement, "naturally preserved". According to



Celant, "The cans offer a frank criticism of how works of art are turned into desirable objects of special meaning and value." They are not meant to be opened and their true content remains the object of conjecture.

Alas, no longer. An unhappy looking Serpentine employee conshow's curator, Germane Celant. fided in me that one of the cans had

Celant was in charge of the last leaked. The contents certainly seemed to be merda, quite possibly d'artista, and she was beginning to fall out of love with gallery work.

If the work was purely a joke, a small if laboured satire on fashions in art, I suppose one might have to give a grudging smile. But we are assured that there is a serious side to Merda d'artista. Even the Serpentine's usually incisive director Julia Peyton-Jones says. "It is compelling that an artist should explore his own body as artistic matter to that degree."

In an era when a disproportionate amount of conceptual art is dependent on wit, jokes and word-play, it is disconcerting to think that, in 30 years' time, scholarly debate could decide that behind all the jokes lie genuine physical and psychological exploration. It made me wish for a stiff drink. That, sadly, was impossible. In the Serpentine Gallery, once a tea house, even a cup of tea is impossi-

ble to find after the £4m renovation. Royal Park regulations that forbid extending the building any further do give the Serpentine Gallery some problems, but with its existing flat roof overlooking Hyde Park and the Serpentine itself, the gallery could have one of the most delightful refreshment areas in London. Gallery chairman Lord Palumbo, who knows a bit about battling against planning regulations, should ensure that steps are taken soonest. Art-lovers need nourishment, though, in present circumstances. I will avoid anything in a can.

#### THE WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

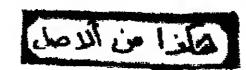
Audiences are slippery customers, A mindless faith in the efficacy of the studio audience has slaughtered any number of slight and subtle comedy programmes, artificially primed guffaws swamping the sly smile that ought to have been aimed for. But other comedies have been rescued from oblivion by an audience's hooting attentions - no one can doubt that the extraordinary recent resurgence of I'm Sorry, I Haven't 4 Clue owes a lot to the decision to take the programme around the country, recording it in front of student audiences whose informed and enthusiastic appreciation has oiled some creaky old gags.

Presumably it's in the hope of creating the same magic that this year's Reith Lectures (John Keegan on "War and Our World") are going to be dragged out of the studio and put in front of real people. Two new programmes this week showed what a mixed blessing an audience can be when you are trying to put a serious argument. On Saturday, Gore Vidal opened a series called The Sounding the Century Lectures on Radio 3 with a feint at American foreign policy under the rubric "The Last Empire, or It Is Earlier than You Think".

He began by explaining to his South Bank audience that he would he reading his text, "but I shall look up from time to time to give an air of spontaneity". You doubt that an air of spontaneity has clung to anything Vidal has done since he was pottytrained - his replies to questions after his main oration were as polished and glittering as anything he had taken from the page. But be did manage to keep up a sense that this speech was part of a conversation, and not simply a soliloquy.

Audience participation worked less well in the first Lion's Den (Wed. R4), in which Bryan Appleyard was cast in the role of Daniel, putting the case that theatre is hugely over-rated to a hostile audience of actors, playwrights, directors and critics. Appleyard's arguments were largely feeble - complaining, for instance, that Shakespeare on stage never lives up to Shakespeare on the page, as if failure to attain ideals was not intrinsic to artistic effort. He even argued that, being collaborative and interpretative, theatre shouldn't even be called "art" - well, hang goes the symphonic tradition, eh?

Sadly, the smug, feeble-minded responses from his audience had the effect of making his arguments sound more intellectually respectable than they were. Cue hollow laughs at the expense of theatre - a live art that relies on audiences, but has no idea how to be one.



# Bookworm who turned

An idealistic young publisher has exposed Rupert Murdoch as a liar, writes David Lister

IN THE end it didn't take a fellow media magnate or a disgruntled famous editor to expose Rupert Murdoch as a liar and a threat to democracy.

The unlikely hero of a week of drama, writs and leaked memos is a young, idealistic bookworm: a publisher who would no longer tolerate Murdoch trying to subordinate a once great publishing house to his own husiness interests.

Thirty-six year old Stuart Proffitt had a joh he loved: working at HarperCollins on Chris Patten's memoirs of the Hong Kong handover. Murdoch who owns HarperCollins, wanted to ditch the book as it criticises the Chinese. Murdoch is in the husiness of toauving to China's totalitarian regime, as he wants to extend his TV empire into the lucrative Chinese market.

So the Patten book had to he ditched. And, as is normal with Murdoch, he expected his staff to lie for him, to claim that the book was "substandard." To Harper-Collins's eternal shame, the key executives involved agreed to do so. It is all in a day's work in Murdochland,

But Stuart Proffitt refused. He thought the manuscript first rate. He also believed there was a certain honour, a certain integrity left in publishing even in these days of ownership by multinationals. And so he defied Murdoch. He paid with his job.

As he told the tale this week, a picture emerged, as it has never emerged before, of how a once-great publishing house now kow-tows to a media tycoon pursuing his own wider husiness Interests, just as that owner kow-tows to the Chinese.

As Proffitt worked on the book, Murdoch's henchmen in Britain and America began an offensive to ditch it and show it was not up to scratch. Proffitt stood up to Murdoch's henchmen to declare that the Patten hook was the best by a politician he had read in 15 years, Proffitt would have to go. Literary worth, accuracy, democracy, historical record — all these things count for nothing in HarperCollins if they get in the way of Murdoch's global amhition.

The bravery of Stuart Proffitt has shattered the reputation of the publishing company he has served since leaving university. It is hard to see how any of its authors, ranging from Jeffrey Archer 10 John Major, from Doris Lessing to Arundhati Roy, can hold their heads up now. Fay Weldon is already signalling that she wants to sever her connection with Murdoch's ves men.

Other publishers are preparing their chequebooks. Martin Neild, managing director of Hodder and Stoughton, predicts: "The general uncertainty will spread among HarperCollins's writers. Of course, we will take advantage of the situation." Inside HarperCollins, senior and junior employees are reeling. One insider said: There's stunned disbelief here. I cannot recall this type of interference before."

There speaks a man who has not studied the career of Keith Rupert Murdoch. Murdoch has an eclectic interest in communications. He owns HarperCollins. He owns Twentieth Century Fox, BSkyB and Star TV in Asia. His newspaper empire em-

hraces The Australian, the New York Post



China Syndrome: Murdoch's TV interssts led HarperCollins to ditch the Chris Patten book

Photograph: Neal C Lawson/Reuters

and, over here, The Times, The Sunday Times, The Sun and The News Of The World.

Murdoch's use of his communications empire to try to subvert democracy is commonplace. Just as the Conservatives in the Eighties opposed moves to refer his newspaper and television acquisitions to the Monopolies Commission, so Tony Blair and his Government have proved remarkably uninterested in complaints about predatory pricing by The Times.

He offered Republican senate leader Newt Gingrich \$4.5m for a complete nonbook; a thinly disguised inducement to acquiesce to Murdoch's lonbying interests.

He dismissed Andrew Neil as editor of The Sunday Times because he was worried his television interests in Asia would he damaged by the paper's persistent investigation into "aid" payments by Britain to Malaysia to get building contracts for the Pergau Dam. Neil got a £1m pay-off.

He axed the BBC's World Service channel from his Star TV network in order to appease the Beijing regime, who were less than impressed by Kate Adie's reports of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

He pressurised once-respectable publisher Basic Books in New York, a recent acquisition, to release a cringingly propagandistic hiography of Deng Niaoping. amid lavish publicity. Its author? Deng Ron, the despot's own daughter.

Murdoch's kow-towing to Beijing has paid off. China, the higgest single prize in the global TV market, has just granted him the extraordinary "special concession" of launching a Mandarin language channel. Phoenix, for the Chinese market.

Then, to Murdoch's annoyance, came trouble from HarperCollins.

The Patten manuscript was being handled by Proffitt, who had secured a know, calls from across the sea expressing £125,000 contract with Patten. But for Proffitt, it it was a labour of love.

After reading the manuscript at home over a weekend, he sent a memo to Eddie Bell, the head of HarperCollins UK, enthusing: "I finished Chris Patten's text (the first two thirds of the book) over the weekend. The impression I had when I'd finished the first chapter is confirmed. This is probably the most lucid, best written and compelling book I have read by any politician of any persuasion since I came into publishing."

It was an unusual move for Proffitt to write a memo about the manuscript to his

boss, as he did on Tuesday, 20 January. He had a reason. As he revealed in a legal declaration, published in The Daily Telegraph, he was aware that HarperCollins's proprietor was taking an unhealthy interest in the book, an interest that was to bring the bookworm into headlong collision with the

He had, he said, been told several times in late 1997 by Eddic Bell "that Rupert Murdoch had called him to express extreme

displeasure that we had signed the book". As Murdoch's ex-newspaper editors extreme displeasure at their decisions are not to he ignored.

The next day, 21 January, Eddie Bell sent a copy of Proffitt's report on the book to America and his boss, Anthea Disney, chairman and CEO of News America Pub-Jishing, a wholly owned subsidiary of News Corporation. Anthea Disney, at 50, still has the slim figure, hlack hair and dark eyes that in the Seventies accompanied her New York column for the Daily Mail. She was not one to ignore her patron's "extreme displeasure". And she ordered Bell to re-

linguish the rights to the book. Bell's memo to Disney reminded her of the bad PR such a move would attract. He wrote: "Following your instruction to relinquish rights. I have given considerable thought to the potential ramifications of such action. The more I have thought about this, the more concerned I have become. In fact, I am extremely worried."

The memo continues: "K.R.M. has outlined to me the negative aspects of publication which I fully understand ... Within Britain, NewsCorp's actions are clearly tracked and reported on by an often hostile media. NewsCorp's amhitions in China

Proffitt continued editing and praising the Patten book, giving a dinner in Patten's honour at the Savoy on 29 January.

are often commented upon.

A week later. Proffitt was informed that a decision had been taken to withdraw Patten's hook on the grounds that "the text was disappointing and that it was not worth what we had paid for it". Proffitt said he would have to consider his position. He was sent home and suspended from work.

On I0 February Adrian Bourne contacted Chris Patten's literary agent, Michael Sissons, and told him they were not going to publish the book as "it did not accord with the synopsis and was below

standard". Sissons was gobsmacked and the pair met that afternoon. Sissons recalls: "I was not only smelling a rat. It was dangling right in front of my nose. He hlurted out that Chris Patten did not seem to have anything good to say about Asia. Then the penny dropped."

The penny, of course, is that Murdoch wants to extend his TV empire into China and cannot risk offending the totalitarian Chinese regime. Stuart Proffitt is suing HarperCollins for

constructive dismissal, declaring this week that what they asked of him "would have meant, in short, both lying and doing enormous damage to my own reputation. This is not something which a company can properly ask one of its employees to do".

Mr Proffitt is right. Lying and doing enormous damage to your reputation is not something a company should ask one of its employees to do. But that is a perilously old-fashioned principle in Murdochland, where lies and reputations count for little.

If Tony Blair wants more details about his most powerful media supporter, he should give Stuart Proffitt a ring. He's easy to reach, being out of work at present. Additional reporting by Mel Steel

#### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

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DEATHS

SMEALL: James Leathley, peacefully on 24 February after a short illness. He will be very much missed by his family and many many friends. Cremation private, followed by a service to celebrare his life in St Margaret's Church, Topsham, Exeter, on Fridny 13 March at 12 noon. Enquiries and donations if desired in aid of the Exeter and District Hospice to Peter Turf, 16 Victoria Road, Topsham, Exeter EX3 0EU. 01392 873955.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London EH 5DL, telephoned to 071-1072 2012 (24-ben; answering machine London E M 5DL, telephoned to 0/1-293 2012 (24-bour answering machine 0/17-293 2011) or faced to 0/17-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or fazed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

The OBITUARIES e-mail address

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, anends the Corawall Rugby Football Union's Quarter Final Match of the Rugby Football Union County Championships against Hampshire at Redruth Rugby Football Club Committee Club. Cornwall

Changing of the Guard Changing of the Guard
TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life
Guard at Horse Guards, 11am: No 7
Company Coldstream Guards mounts the
Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace,
11.30am, bend provided by the Coldstream Guards. TOMORROW: The
Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment
mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse
Florates (Ham.

#### Forthcoming marriages

#### Mr J. W. K. Lambert and Miss M. B. Spicer

The engagement is announced between Jason, son of the late Dr K.C. Lambert and Mrs E.D. Lambert, of Cambridgeshire, and Mary, daugh-ier of Mr David Bethune and the Hon Mrs Spicer, of West Sussex.

TODAY: Mr Peter Alliss, gotfer and television commentator, 67: Sir Philip Ballhache, Bailiff of Jersey, 52; Sir Peter Baxendell, former chairman, Hawker Siddeley, 73; Miss Stephanie Beacham, actress, 49: Mr Alfred Burke, actor, 80; Mr John Carson, ac-tor, 71; Mr Robin Cook MP, Foreign Secretary, 52; Maj-Gen Edwin Fox-ton, 84; Lord Garel-Jones, former MP, 57; Mrs Helen Grindrod QC, former Crown Court Recorder, 62; Sir Anthony Havelock-Allan, film producer, 94: Admiral Sir Peter Herbert, former Chairman, SSAFA, 69; Maj-Gen Michael Hobbs, retiring Direclor, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, 61; Professor Maxwell Irvine, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Birmingham University, 59; Mr Jeremy Lancaster, chairman and managing director, Wolseley-Hughes, 62; Mr Barry McGuigan, boxer, 37; Mr Martin Marriott, former Headmaster, Canford School, 66; Mr Brian Moore, nord School, op; for brian Moore, football commentator, 66; Mr Robin phillips, actor and director, 56; Mr Peter Stothard, Editor, the Times, 47; Sir John Swire, hon president, John Swire and Sons, 71; Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, 62; Sir Michael Young-Herries, former chairman, Royal Bank of Scotland Group, 75.

29 FEBRUARY: Mr Joss Ackland, actor, 70: Mr Mario Andretti, grand prix driver, 58: Sir David Beattie, former Governor General of New Zealand, 74; Mr Greichen Christopher, rock singer, 58: Li-Gen Sir Rod-erick Cordy-Simpson, Deputy Force Commander, Bosnia Hercegovina, 54: Baroness Dunn, former chairman, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, 58; Mr Anthony Lingard, former Director-General, St John

Ambulance Association, 82; Mr Alan

Loveday, violinist, 70; Mile Michele

#### Morgan, petress, 78; Mr Albert

TOMORROW: Mr Harry Bela fcole, entertainer, 71; Mr David Broome, show jumper, 58; Mr Dou-glas Bunn, founder, All-England Jumping Course, Hickstead, 70; Sir Robert Calderwood, former chief executive. Strathclyde Regional Council, 66; Mr Nigel Cowley, cricketer, 45; Mr Roger Daltrey, singer and ac-tor, 54; Mr Andrew Faulds, former MP. 75; Sir Allan Green QC, former Director of Public Prosecutions, 63; Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges, former Deputy C-in- C Affied Forces, Central Europe, 80; Mr Martyn Jones MP, 51; Sir Michael Kerr, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 77: Professor James Lister, paediatrician, 75; Mrs Patricia Metham, Head, Roedean School, 53: Mr John Napier, stage designer, 54: Mr Mike Read, music presenter, 47; Mr Mark Todd, Olympic athlete, 42; Maj-Gen Philip

Tower, former Commandant, Royat Military Academy, 8t; Mr Brian Waites, golfer, 58; Sir Gerald Whent, chief executive, Racal Telecom plc, 71. **Anniversaries** TODAY: Births: Sir John Tenniel artist and illustrator, t820; Linus Carl artist and illustrator, 1820; Linus Carl Pauling, double Nobel prizewinner, 1901. Deaths: Henry James, novelist, 1916; Ruby Ethel Keeler, actress, 1993. On this day: Ladysmith was relieved, 1900; the last British troops left India, 1948; a general election in Britain resulted in no overall majority, 1974. Today is the Feast Day of the Martyrs of the Plane at Alexandria. Martyrs of the Plague at Alexandria, St Hilarus, pope, St Lupicimus, St Os-wald of Worcester, St Proterius and

TOMORROW: Births: Frédéric François (Fryderyk Franciszek) Cho-pin, composer, 1810; Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin, architect, 1812; James David Graham Niven, actor, 1910. Deaths: Thomas Campion, poet and composer, 1620; George Herbert, clergyman and poet, 1633; Gabriele D'Amunzio, poet, politician and playwright, 1938. On this day: Vasco da Gama discovered Mozambique, 1498. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Aubin or Albinus of Angers, St David or Dewi, St Felix III, Pope, St Rudesind or Resende

#### **OBITUARIES**

## **Peter Sichel**

lish gentleman in Bordeaux. He had only heen in Bordeaux for 12 years when he was elect-Wine Merchants Association in 1972.

In the Bordeaux establishment's notoriously closed community, this was a considerable achievement in itself. But he soon found himself embroiled in the intricacies of the Bordeaux wine crash of 1973 which had involved fraud and corruption following the worldwide collapse of the 1972 vintage. In the event he won enormous respect for the diplomacy and skill with which he handled one of Bordeaux's worst ever crises.

Peter Sichel was born in Hampstead, north London, to the Anglo-French branch of an nfluential wine-trade family, whose involvement in wine dates hack to mid-18th-century Germany. The German hranch became famous for the development of the Blue Nun brand, through Walter Sichel in Britain, and Peter's cousin Peter Max Sichel in America. Peter Sichel's great-grandfather established the Sichel office in Bordeaux in 1883, initially as a branch of the family firm, H. Sichel Söhne, based in Mainz in Germany.

At first dividing his time hetween Bordeaux and the UK, croachment of New World

PETER SICHEL was an Eng- Sichel eventually settled in Bordeaux after meeting his wife, journalist. Diana, a scion of the Heathcoat-Amory family. One of his maed President of the Bordcaux jor achievements was to put the ancient Margaux property. Château d'Angludet, on the Bordeaux wine map. Bought in 1961 as a virtual ruin after the devastating frosts of 1956 (it produced just four barrels of d'Angludet today has become

one of the most sought after cru bourgeois clarets. He was also the major shareholder in Château Palmer, in which his father, Allan Sichel, invested in 1938, with three other Bordeaux families. Considered folly at the time, the investment took 20 years to show a return. Today, Château Palmer is widely regarded as one of the superstars in Bordeaux's constellation of crus

Sichel maintained the tradition started by his father, whose Penguin Book of Wines was published in 1965, of releasing an annual report on the new Bordeaux vintage. The Sichel Vintage and Market Report was eagerly awaited by the wine trade as much for its detailed factual content as for its insights into the state of the market and Sichel's own wry comments on his current bête noire, whether it be the enwines or the fickle British wine

Peter Sichel was one of a rare breed in Bordeaux who managed successfully to comhime the separate roles of merchant and château-owner. A strong believer in the business sense of adding value to the product, he was in fact the first wine merchant to become a wine in that legendary vintage), wine maker, establishing a winery, the Cave Bel-Air, in

Although he had his hands full with his own projects, he still found time to become President in 1988 of the powerful association of top châteaux, the Union des Grands Crus, a phoenix which arose from the ashes of the 1973 crash. At a time when the New World was heginning to emerge as a competitive force to be reckoned sador for Bordeaux and its traditional, old-world values was much respected.

In the face of stiff competition from the New World, he always championed the very French notion of terroir. In his view, the location of the vineyard stamps a wine with its own very distinctive character as against what he saw as the anonymity of varietal wines from the New World, "Character comes from the terroir, hut quality depends on the winemaking," said Sichel. He ad-



Sichel: a wine enthusiast with vision

with, his vision as an ambas- , mired, perhaps even envied, the marketing skills of the New World, wishing French wines could employ similar skill and techniques.

In 1987, he launched his own hrand, Sirius, in response to the success of New World hrands on export markets. He was unrelenting in his pursuit of the Sichel brand name. After a Which? Wine Monthly report on Bordeaux Rouge which had criticised a number of his wines. he physically pursued the journalist in question at a London tasting, brandishing a corkscrew.

Sichel was a wine enthusiasi with vision. Not content to sit on his Bordeaux laurels, he invested in the Domaine du Révérend estate at Cucugnan in the Corbieres in 1989, and in the following year he bought another estate, Domaine du Trillol. As he approached retirement Corbières became his viticultural mistress. It was a challenge for a man with such deep faith in the properties of terroir to invest in the Languedoc-Roussillon, a region with no track record of great vineyard sites.

He and his wife Diana hac five sons, all involved in the busi ness today, and a daughter "Our strength today is that have five sons in the firm." said Sichel proudly shortly before he died. When the British jour nalist Nicholas Faith recentl told him he thought his son Be was making hetter wine a Château d'Angiudet than h ever had, Peter Sichel smile with relief, happy to acknow edge that his children ha well and truly taken over th

#### **Anthony Ros**

Peter Allan Sichel, wine merchar grower and winemaker: bo London 19 September 1931; mi ried 1962 Diana Heathcoat-Amc (five sons, one daughter); di Bordeaux, France 22 Februs

# INDEPENDENT

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# The Murdoch mask slips

THANKS TO the courage and sense of honour of the publishing editor Stuart Proffitt, Rupert Murdoch has been found out. Mr Proffitt, senior editor at the Murdoch subsidiary HarperCollins, refused to he to Chris Patten, the last Governor of Hong Kong, about the real reason that Mr Patten'a book about the Far East was being withdrawn. Which was that Mr Murdoch is so driveo by greed in fostering his media interests in China that he wouldn't risk even a remote connection with a book which might criticise one of the most repressive Communist regimes in the world.

One passage leaps out from the anxious memo from Eddie Bell, chairman of HarperCollins, questioning the decision by his New York bosses to ditch the Patten book. It is the one in which Mr Bell refers to Mr Murdoch's description of the book as having "negative aspects". The phrase – which would be hilarious if it were not so chilling – has about it the wholly appropriate ring of the totalitarian Communist regime which Mr Murdoch is now single-mindedly courting. Indeed Mr Murdoch has emerged as the ultimate capitalist - which is to say a capitalist without principles, easily prepared to exchange, when it suits him, the standards of liberal democracy for those of a brutally repressive form of perverted Marxism-Leninism.

The British political leader at whose feet Mr Murdoch worshipped most actively before his marriage of convenience with Tony Blair was Margaret Thatcher. But to her great credit the Thatcher stance was as consistent towards Peking as it was to pre-Gorbachev Moscow. She never flinched, for example, from backing Mr Patten's decision as Governor of Hong Kong to stand up for democracy in the colony. We knew, by contrast, that Mr Murdoch took a coldly pragmatic view - stopping the BBC in 1994 from broadcasting on his Far East satellite company Star TV because free reporting threatened his China interests. But then we have discovered that



there was still more to learn about Mr Murdoch: there is very little that he will not do to increase his money and power. To borrow a phrase from his adopted country, this is "kiss up, kick down" on a now global scale. He kow-tows to Peking, while stamping vigorously on the testimony of one Britain's biggest and most intelligent public servants.

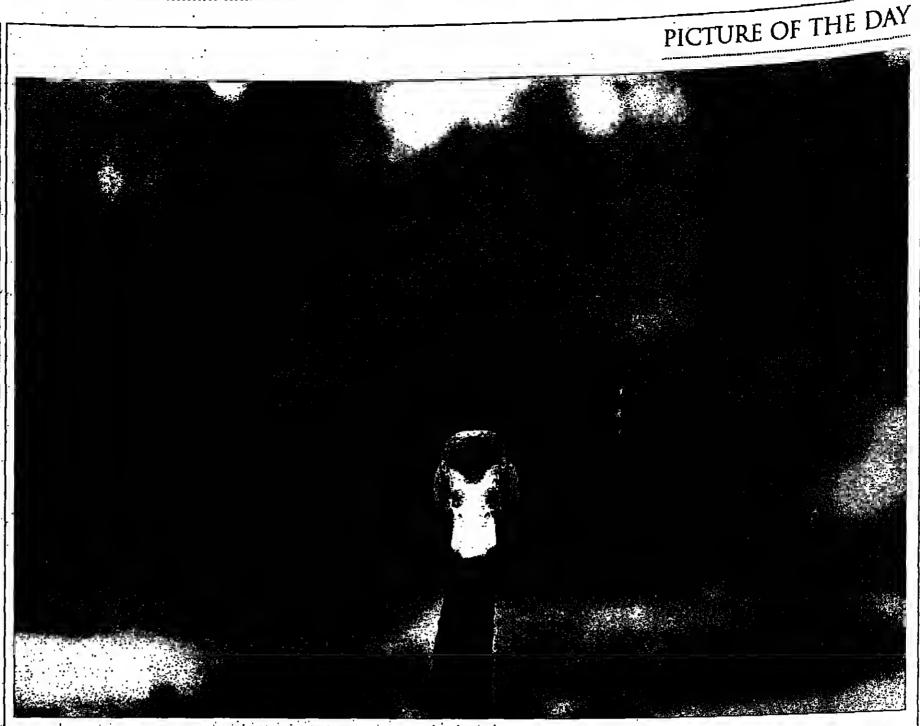
The latest evidence of his bullying and the morally indefensible demands it makes on his employees has an importance which goes well beyond the damage he has inflicted on the publishing house of HarperCollins. For the more Mr Murdoch's methods and goals are exposed, the more they raise questions about the cosiness of the relationship he enjoys with the Labour government. The suspicioo is growing that Mr Murdoch's influence can be detected in several aspects of government policy: the refusal to tackle predatory pricing, where Mr Murdoch's own interests are clear; union recognition; the Prime Minister's aversion to any form of privacy legislation; and the Government's caution on EMU, to name but four His influence may in some instances be exaggerated: certainly Mr Blair hasn't bought into the Murdoch paranoia about Europe, though his reluctance to contemplate an EMU referendum this side of a general election certainly reflects a fear of how the Murdoch papers would respond if he did. Even on predatory pricing Blair allies continue to insist that the Prime Minister has formed his own view on what mechanisms it would, and would not, be right to include in the Competition Bill. But all this would more convincing if amid all the favours the Murdoch media grant New Labour - most recently The Sun's gung-ho coverage of Mr Blair's conduct of the Gulf crisis, and BSkyB's sponsorship of the Dome - ministers could point to just one policy which adversely affects Mr Murdoch's designs.

The point about the HarperCollins saga is that there are some clear good guys - Mr Patien, Mr Proffitt - and one clear had guy - Mr Murdoch. The Prime Minister would no doubt say that the internal affairs of Mr Murdoch's media empire are no business of his. But it has been illuminating about the kind of man Mr Murdoch is. We thought Mr Blair was on the side of the 300d guys. It must be time for him to reassess his relationship with the one man who emerges from this sorry tale without a shred of credit.

## BBC risks contempt of Parliament

 $\Gamma$ S TIME to put the brakes on James Boyle. Mr Boyle, controller of BBC adio 4. apparently thinks Yesterday in Parliament is "boring" and should istantly he shunted off to the long-wave frequency. This is one of a sees of changes in parliamentary and political programming, which also inudes moving the half hour Week in Westminster from Saturday morning a graveyard slot on Thursday evening, when only the most devoted polics junkies are likely to tune in.

The first problem with this strategy – which has greatly upset MPs – is at it is oot borne out by the facts. *Yesterday in Parliament* attracts an audiice of 1.3 million, while according to a BBC spokesman The Week in Westinster is listened to by 658,000 people on a Saturday morning. Will Wyatt, ief executive of BBC Broadcasting, and Matthew Bannister, managing dictor of BBC Radio Network, irritated MPs on Thursday by being unable give figures for the drop when the late night Today in Parliament went to ig wave from FM. The audience more than halved, to around 160,000. And search carried out by the rival BBC News Directorate showed that listeni feel very warmly about both Yesterday in Parliament and The Week in Westrister. Which is not surprising. Both programmes, have an appeal which ikes casual listeners stay with them once they have happened upon them. The BBC has mishandled these changes, and not only by failing to conce MPs. It's far from certain that Mr Boyle would attract a bigger aunce by getting rid of the parliamentary programmes he regards as being he way. But whether he would or not, the BBC has a public service re-. In an age of spin and pre-packaged political announcements, Parliant remains the one theatre in which the executive is publicly and daily 'ed to account, however imperfectly. The point of these programmes is t they are enjoyed by a surprisingly sizeable audience - more than half whom would not hunt for them on another channel but enjoy them if don't have to. If coveriog Parliament with programming that holds isteners isn't part of the BBC's remit, it's difficult to see what is.



Swan up: one of the Australian black swans that decorate St James's Park in central London

Photograph: Brian Harris A 9x12 print of this photograph can be ordered on 0171-293 2534

#### Countryside March

I REGARD myself as country born and bred. The myth is being put about by the organisers of the Countryside March of a country population that is very different from the town one and of one mind on a broad range of issues.

Modern developments, mainly the car, have made country life little different from town life. The principal difference for many is that the car journeys between work, shopping, school and leisure in the country are made at higher speed and over longer distances. Many country dwellers are not directly involved in farming. Even many farmers, especially those without livestock, now live essentially urban lives. Their food comes from the supermarket (you cannot eat barley, sugar beel or oilseed rape) and their farms, with modern machinery, impose no significantly different hours from any other industrial process.

The real dichotomy over the countryside is in attitude towards it. Some, whether from the town or country, see it as a cultural asset, the thing that both supports life and makes it worthwhile. They want access to it. they want it to grow wholesome food. They want it to be rich, varied, and beautiful in its landscape, plant and animal life. Above all they

want it be there in the future. The other group sees it as a financial asset and private playground. It is to be pillaged one way or another. It can be to grow, industrially, unsustainable crops. It can be to develop" into a sprawling townscape. It can be to use as an exclusive sports ground.

CPADLEY Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

YOUR call for Tony Blair to "stand up for townies" (leading article, 20 February) is timely. The timy minority who enjoy the privilege of living in the countryside should not be allowed to monopolise the rural heritage of the nation.

The urban majority are entitled to a view on national issues like the cruelty of bloodsports, the environmental devastation caused by modern farming and the exclusion of walkers from their homeland. The huge subsidy they provide 10 landowners both as taxpayers and food consumers only underlines this entitlement. Previous Labour governments have attempted to get to grips with the abuses of ower of the rural regime, only to be knocked off course by vigorous lobbying manoeuvres like this coming

Sunday's Countryside March. In the past, the media have been as susceptible as politicians to the arrogant claims and misrepresentations of the rural elite. If The Independent is subjecting rural bluster to the scrutiny the press gives other pro-

paganda, its voice is valuable indeed. However, you need not understate the urban case. Access, for example, is not simply a problem in "pockets" of upland England, as the landowners would have you believe. Exclusion is the rule, not the exception. Most of Britain's woods and meadows, downs and moors, riverbanks and lakesides are out of bounds to walkers and picnickers. You sainte the efforts of local councils to open the countryside, yet the access agreements they have managed to wring out of

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

landowners cover less than 0.5 per cent of the land surface. You rightly applaud the National Trust's efforts, but the trust (and its Scottish equivalent) own just 1.3 per cent of the UK. A right of access is the only thing

that will return the countryside to the people and the present government must not be allowed to slide out of its commitment to introduce ooe. MARION SHOARD Dorking, Surrey

ANDREAS Wittam Smith (Comment, 24 February) characterises "The right [of country landowners] to forbid walkers to roam freely across their estates" as a the defence of a liberty. If ever there was a good example of one person's freedom being another's repression, this is it.

The "right to privacy on one's own property" is only "a powerful and long-established rule" as far as one's home is concerned. For land it is a comparatively modern concept. Land was once regarded as a communal asset, over which most members of the community owned some rights. The idea that ownership of one of those rights, the freehold of the soil, should convey the right to exclude everyone else would have seemed monstrously perverse and unjust to our ancestors.

Unregulated access to land is now neither possible nor desirable, because of the immense population of our island, but the limitations of access should be determined by what gives the greatest benefit to the greatest number, not on a false understanding of the very nature of land ownership. KHAGETT

ANDREAS Whittam Smith's article appears well balanced, until we get to "If we stopped sheltering agriculture from market forces we would I AM all for the Countryside Alliance get much cheaper food."

I farm cows for milk, hens for eggs, and wheat to feed the hens. "Market forces" have reduced the milk price to farmers by 20 per ceot without any noticeable drop in dairy product prices. Wheat is now trading at £30 per toune instead of £110 just over a year ago. Is your bread cheaper? The farmer is getting less than 40p per dozen for eggs sold in supermarkets for £1.20 per dozen. er) hypocrites singing hymns about Romanian and Hungarian chickens are being imported at such low in of subsidy forms by those who curse prices that I am being offered, 2p per everyone else for being parasites, no bird for end-of-lay chickens that five chance of bumping into certain permonths ago would have made 14p sons as I roam my beloved Borders. per hird, and a year ago 38p. We are, on top of all these prob-

lems, being attacked for hunting with hounds, are expected to give unlimited access, and are being vilified for making fields into an economic size with which to compete with the world price of food. Now do you see why we are lighting beacons and marching? ROGER STRATTON Keynshum, Bristol

OUR countryside and its traditions are under pressure from every quarter. Those who live and work in the country sense that their livelihoods are at a mere pown of a right-wing constake, especially given the apparent apathy of the Government, its ignorance of rural matters, and continuing pressure from Europe. This is about jobs - for blacksmiths, farm staff, gamekeepers, ghillies, and many in related industries, especially tourism.

I would urge those who live, work. or derive pleasure from the countryside 10 give the countryside march on Sunday 1 March their support. ANDREW DINGWALL-FORDYCE Convener Scottish Landowners' Federation

rally on I March in London.

no badgers baited, no uotaxed trac-

land and nearby humans, no (or lew-

countryside world. All the vanduls

problem is whether to upset millions

of decent Londoners by praying on

that day to St David for rain to pour

AS ONE of the ill-informed dupes

who will be strolling the streets of Lon-

don this Sunday I was of course some-

what disappointed to hear that I was

spiracy (leading article, 27 February).

Not only is it headed by "notfs", but

it is even being bankrolled by sinis-

ter dark forces and then. Heaven for-

hid, we are not even a single-issue

"pressure group", but have wide-rang.

ing concerns about rural policies, sev-

eral of which you list. I certainly would

not expect you to agree with them all.

but the fact that they do matter to such

a wide range of people may have been

worth a little more open debate in The

on the capital.

JIM BRUNTON

Edinburgh

months in Pakistan, where I was born. I was given wonderful hospitality. But I was also taken on a visit to some brickfields ("Film exposes child slavery". 24 February). Two things come back to mind that seem especially poignant. One

A FEW years ago I spent several

Children in slavery

is the smile that an eight- or nine-For that one day there will be no year-old was able to give me as he farm animals stuffed with hormones and antibiotics, no raptors poisoned, loaded his man-sized barrow with clay; the other is the sight of a little baby, asleep on the bare earth in the tors on our roads, no wild animals hounded, no song-birds silenced, no shade of a pile of raw bricks waiting hedges mangled, no folk having to for the kiln; it was likely to be the work overtime to earn a living wage. only time of rest and peace that the no harmful chemicals spread on the child was going to have until death.

Something must be done, about the brickfields and the whole child "creatures great and small", no filling labour scene in Pakistan, but it needs to be done with sensitivity and understanding, or matters will be bonded labourers generally) are so In short, God will be in his/her enmeshed in the Pakistan economy heaven and all will be right with the that it will need much painstaking work to bring them their freedom. will he in Hyde Park. The only The tiny Christian church in Pakistan is trying to alleviate the situation, with great courage but minuscute resources, and so too are some Muslims and human rights groups, but they no are small in number. The Rev BA HOPKINSON Middlesbrough

#### Morning Star

You report (26 February) a claim in the Morning Star that the Communist Parry of Britain has been in talks with Arthur Scargill about the possibility of his party, the Socialist

Labour Party, buying the paper. A recent informal discussion between representatives of the two parties did not include any such proposal. The Morning Star is owned by a readers' co-operative (the Penple's Press Printing Society) and is not the Communist Party's to sell. Nor would we support any such

ROBERT GRIFFITHS General Secretary Communist Party of Britain London NI

#### Working mothers

IF tax payers have to bear the cost of childcare subsidies for those mothers who work to pay school fees (letter, 25 February), at least they will he relieved of the costs of educating those mothers' children. KATHARINE WAIT Duns Tew, Oxfordshire

#### Dome thoughts

I SYMPATHISE with Mary Hodges (letter, 26 February; "Too old for the Dome?") but have to disagree. I will be a mere stripling of 45 in the year 2000 and I think the contents of the Millennium Dome are designed for those aged 25 or less. KEITH HART

Famborough, Hampshire

YOU ACCUSE the Prime Minister of "preachitying and chiding" about the Millennium Dome (leading article, 25 February). Give the man a chance; it's what he does best. JOHN RIMMER London SW11

#### QUOTE UNQUOTE

The reason I've been so successful is that I've just got on and done it. I've packed boxes and know VAT means value added tax not vodka and tonic - Paul Smith fashion icon

I bought an ice cream once. I honestly can't think of the others - Eddie George, Bank of England Governor, asked about occasions when he had been extravagant

It is an observable phenomenon in Northern Ireland - and elsewhere - that tension and violence tend to rise when compromise is in the air - Bertie Ahern, Irish Prime Minister

We had to stop them. Every tart in London was being presented - Princess Margaret, in a just-published comment on the abolition in the 1950s of the debutantes' royal presentation parties

As a nation, we are extremely good at producing an academic élite. But that élite has shown scant interest in training the rest of the workforce - John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB union

A bad night at the theatre is worse than anything: one squirms and writhes and wishes oneself dead - Ben Elton, playwright



Independent.

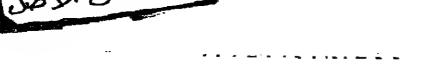
JEREMY APTER

Sudbury, Suffolk

Bob Hoskins: A Cockney feared

In England, if I walk into someone's home and they don't know me, as soon as I open my mouth they lock up the silver and send the women out of the way -Bob Hoskins, cockney actor

Nothing will ever turn William Hague into a leader. His only proposal is for endless consultations with the Tory rank and file. They will have to throw him out eventually, but there is nothing to be gained by consulting them beforehand as they are extremely stupid people - Auberon Waugh, writer



## Only the British know how to shrug off an arm-eating tiger



DAVID **AARONOVITCH** THE FALSE VIRTUE OF SANG-FROID

You don't have to do much to be a hero these days. Once upon a time heroism was the product of a conscious decision. Shall I jump into this raging torrent to rescue the drowning tot? Shall I stay in Khartoum and rally my troops, as the overwhelming forces of the Mahdi gather on the plaio for the final assault? These were therefore acts of real hravery. The odds had been calculated; the hero pressed on regardless.

But in these debased times you can get the accolade for much more passive acts. The most common, of course, is not dying of cancer. If your tumour is malign and you do anything other than go into an immediate and terminal decline, then you are up there with Hector and Lysander. This week, however, such unconscious bravery made a hero out of 38year-old Nigel Wesson, when he involuntarily lent a hand to a tiger. Soon we can expect a Queen's special award for all those who have lost a limb to a

To be fair to Mr Wesson, it was not so much the fact of his heing injured by tiger, that has made him a celebrity, but his reaction to it. For those unfamiliar with the story. Mr Wesson, a comparative newcomer to the world of tiger-tending. had been feeding the animals at Chipperfield's training centre in Oxfordshire. Mr Wesson said he reached into Rajah's cage to close a partition. (He was, according to the circus, supposed to do this job with a loog pole. Tigers, apparently, are at their most excited just after tunch. Men, of course, are the opposite. Oh well. Mr Wesson won't be making that mistake again in a hurry.)

Zoos and circuses have their own reasons for being thankful to Mr Wesson, He has supplied a bloody reminder to a blase public that the animals on display are exotically and thrillingly violent.

More of us will now go to see them, hoping to experience that pleasurable frisson when the large caged car turns to us and

But, we British admire him for his sang-froid. Yesterday's Mirror, whose reporter had been to Mr Wesson's hedside, recounted the rale of "one pat who visited chirpy Nigel in hospital and revealed that the hrave keeper had told him he was 'dying' for a pint of lager". Others commented that "he told us what had happened as if he'd just met us in the street". Though presumably he did not

"It's just one of those things," Mr Wesson is reported as having said. No it iso't. It is a completely other thing, to be set alongside travelling on the roof of a train or stowing away in the landing gear of a jumbo jet. But we tove this sangfroid. It seems to us to be the quiotessence of Englishness. It could be Captain Oates on that terrible polar night in 1912, "I'm going out, I may be some time." Or Lord Uxbridge, to whom the Duke of Weltiogton turned at the height of the battle of Waterloo, and said, "By God sir. you've lost your leg!" To which Uxbridge replied, "By God sir, so I

It is unimaginable that French people or Italians would behave in this way. Look at their footballers. And that rughy player who complained about having his ear hitten off wasn't English either. Wouldn't we have thought more of him had he stayed on the pitch, and then at the final whistle - taxed with injury to his ear - put his hand to his head and replied, "What ear?"

Our ostensible reason for admiring such behaviour is that it represents calmness in a crisis and is therefore a more efficient response. The person with sangfroid will keep the passengers of the stricken liner from panicking, supervising their orderly descent into the lifehoats. Nor will be or she rush for the exits when the fire alarm goes off in the crowded einema, but will remain seated eojoying the popcorn and Kia-Ora.

This is actually nonsense. Sang-froid requires the person that possesses it to behave as if there were no hillowing ocean and no imminent threat of immolation. The last person whom one wants next to one in a crisis is a sang-froidiste. First they will attempt to ignore what is going on. Then they are obliged to minimise it. And finally, as the flames lick around their trouser legs, they will attempt to reassure you that they feel fine. They take suspect packages to lost property.

pidity or a lack of imagination. Ronald Reagan, when he was the victim of an assassination attempt, is said to have quipped to the doctors: "Don't tell Nancy." Some helieve that he simply couldn't comprehend that there was any chance of him being very seriously injured; indeed, he just hadn't thought Maybe. It is more likely though, that

sang froid is simply an affectation. This is about style, about wit, about maintaining control. Oscar Wilde, had he just lost his arm to a tiger, would have behaved in a similar way to Mr Wesson. Was it not Oscar who said that when the final trumpet sounded, and he and Bosie were lying on their Elysian couches, he would pretend not to hear it.

# Don't tell me to stay home and watch World Cup football on the telly



There are times, says Trevor Phillips, when it is necessary to be just one among many in a crowd

Anyone who has to use the London Underground or a crowded commuter train each day will have a sneaking sympathy with the former Tory minister who despaired of having to share trains with "dreadful human beings". Social we may be, but the closer you get to someooe else's armpits, the less appealing the charm of the crowd becomes. Yet, later this year, many of us, including yours truly, will shell out the sort of money that could keep an entire African village going for a year, just for the pleasure of spending two or three days jammed into the biggest crowd on earth.

World Cup games will be witnessed by total crowds of up to two million. But worldwide, the organisers are boasting a likely global audience of more than a hillion for some individual games - probably those involving the Brazilians. The TV watch in the comfort of their own homes, they do not have to travel to the stadium, they can see the action replays on those dodgy offside decisions, they get John Motson's commentary, plus the saintly Ruud Gullitt's reflections on the art of soccer - and you don't have to pay a penny extra. The cost of black market tickets, given the miserly allocation to British fans, will no doubt be astronomical.

The Home Secretary estimates that demand might well outstrip supply by 1,000 to one. To his credit he kept a straight face as he said this; though he is probably feeling pretty smug, being almost the only Cabinet

mostly I receive a warning call

from a neighbour. Therefore,

when the Warwickshire Hunt

gallops down the road, the

feeling is one of being am-

hushed and the trespass feels

when you are on foot, against 30

horse-backed riders, hunt sup-

porters and a similar number of

hounds, you are outnumbered

This may sound dramatic, but

like a physical violation.

minister given permission to atteod the tournament (Mr Blair desperately wants to avoid charges of ministerial junketing.). For good measure, Jack Straw also pointed out that the place would be full of booligans, and that he is going to the lengths of setting up a Hooligan Hotline, so that we can shop the troublemakers in advance. So what on earth is the attraction of going to France, having to eat their horses, listen to their awful pop music, and having to pay several bundred smackers for the pleasure? In the modern world, shouldn't these violent, expensive, unpleasant, mass

gatherings be a thing of the past? Most of today's major cable and entertainment companies reckon so. They will show you their promotional reels if you stand around their lobby for more than 30 seconds; one of the largest outfits conjures up speciators will, of course, have a vision of a world in which you shop, bank, learn, laugh talk, view, play games - almost every imaginable activity through your computer and the Internet. This is the hrave new world predicted in an obscure but telling science fiction short story written nearly half a century ago. It is set in a time, far into the future, when human beings need never move from their own comfortable, padded, cubbyholes. Food, TV, virtual reality vacations, education, company (real or robotic) can be provided instantly at the flick of a switch in your specially fitted arm rest. Bodily waste and fluids disappear conveniently; repairs are carried out by

be performed by some distant laboratory somewhere; death, as a ritual of collective mourning. is unknown. In this world, people never need to meet. Except that, as ever, there is a rebel who decides to try to meet his mother, only to discover to his shock what he had never recognised in himself; the human form had become so attenuated that she was become little more than a head with a couple of shrivelled, useless body parts tacked oo. Though the permanently

sealed cocooo might he a humane way of solving the problem of the Gallagher hrothers, the closer that we come to this sort of nirvana, the less attractive it seems to be overall. It is not so long ago that we were being scared to death by the Cassandras who claimed that the video shop would prove to he the assassin of the cinema; we would all be sitting at home ing out to the movies. Precisely the reverse has happened; it is the video rental husiness that now seems in trouble, as we once again trumpet the renaissance of the British hig

In spite of the fact we can now experience most great events on our own private ground, we consistently choose to join the crowd. This weekend. a hundred thousand or so countryside supporters will be on the streets of London for a collective ramble; last year, hundreds of thousands came to London for the funeral of Princess Diana; three years ago, virtually the whole oatioo found itself in

huge parties to mark the 50th 12 on December 31, 1999? So anniversary of VE Day, and Euro 96 caught the imagination in a way few predicted. I need hardly labour the growing attraction of our most popular national festival, the Notting Hill

It is not an adequate explanation to say that human beings are social beings; we can be social in small numbers, at weddings, funerals and christenings. But we like the crowd more and more rather than less and less. There isn't a specific number that makes a crowd; but I guess that we are talking about those moments when numbers are large enough to allow the individual to be completely anonymous, to shed his or her own personal haggage for a moment, and to merge with others, many of whom we may

Carnival, to make the point.

not know. Modern Britain, it would seem, wants to share the expehatever it is - w many others as we can. In times when this kind of experience is sought more than ever, it feels odd that the controversy over the biggest single national event that will occur in most of our lifetimes has become so focused on a building. The Dome matters, but the question we will ask in the next century is: where were you when the clock struck what should we be doing on that day and night?

I've argued before in this column that we should prepare to hold the biggest party ever seen on that night - linking up hun-dreds of sites (football grounds, concert halls, shopping centres, churches across the nation) by satellite. Local artists and performers should be there to amuse the crowds, and there should be bread and circuses Chris Smith announced yes-

terday that £100m of the lottery proceeds would be going into festival-type events. That's good; but these should not be restricted to village fairs and parties. There should be a right old knees-up, of the kind that no technology, no matter how sophisticated, can provide. Only the unique human experience of being in a crowd can give us that feeling. A good chunk of ensure that our memory of that night is not just the countdown to the new millennium, however heautifully enunciated by Tony, or Cilla or whoever, it should be the mother of all celehrations where we can eat, drink, roar soogs together and dance pressed "Back to back/ Belly to helly", as we Caribbeans would put it.

HIGH INTEREST

## Living in the country doesn't mean I like hunters or hunting



WENDY LEAVESLEY

Not every farmer wants a mob of horse and hounds crossing her land

I live on a farm in Warwickshire and would dearly love to see an end to foxhunting. The Warwickshire Hunt have trespassed on my land, even though I have made it quite clear they have no right of access. Just this January, eight hounds rao through my field of pregnant ewes. If sheep in this condition are made to run, it can cause the lambs to abort.

Hunts have paid compensation to many farmers for losses of this kind, including their own members. One of them told me that she had re-

ceived compensation wheo two of her pedigree Charolais ewes aborted their lambs as a result of trespass by the Shropshire Hunt. She sympathised with my positioo hut told me that getting a legal injunction against the hunt would be futile; unless the hunt gives a 10-mile exclusion zone to property, it cannot avoid trespass. Why should hunts be above the law?

The hunt disrupts the lives of working farmers, they trespass and they damage property. Supporters of this bloodsport claim that this is a "town versus country" issue hut I have certainly never had a problem with so-called "townies" invading my property and allowing their dogs to roam uncontrolled among the sheep.

I have had no written apology from the hunt, nor payment for damage incurred to a fence. On one particular occasion, in November 1996, the hunt's horses and hounds galloped across the field newly seeded with grass and their excuse was that they had to follow the hounds which had run along the ocarby rail track - which in itself is a civil offence. Their unexpected presence had made my pony jump out of his paddock into a neighbour's field, which had unfenced boundaries, oo to the road and rail track. My pony is difficult to catch and if I had not been at home to rescue him, he would have been seriously injured or even killed from remaining loose. If I had been informed that the hunt was in the area, he would have been safely stabled.

On that same day, the hounds also invaded my neighbour's wildlife sanctuary and scattered her birds in all di-



rections, causing enormous distress. The British Field Sports Society have told me their hounds "only" kill five domestie cals a year. Very reassuring

so my farm cat is also at risk. I work from home and enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside. We should receive postcards to inform us when there is a meet in the area, but

by a "moh". The fact is that I cannot prevent them from killing a fox on my property, nor can I prevent them from invading my land. I have seot them maps, I have telephoned them, written to them by recorded delivery and yet my civil rights are still violated.

I have to be home on the day of the hunt in order to protect they are not always sent - my beloved countryside from an easy meal. Then they get on horseback.

being invaded by individuals and animals whose activity I find repulsive and abhorreot. And I remain under threat twice a week right through the hunting season.

machines. Reproduction can

Many supporters of Michael Foster's bill to end fox hunting have chosen to defend hunting oo the basis that a ban would infringe civil liberties. What about the rights of the individual whose property and livestock is constantly under threat of trespass and mayhem? Who is defeoding those civil rights? It is laughable that the hunt supporters include me, a country dweller, as a supporter of the Countryside Alliance campaign. The Countryside Alliance does not speak for the majority of people in the countryside. In fact a recent MORI poll showed that 57 per cent of people living in rural areas support the Foster Bill. How dare the Countryside Alliance purport to speak on my behalf - nothing could he further

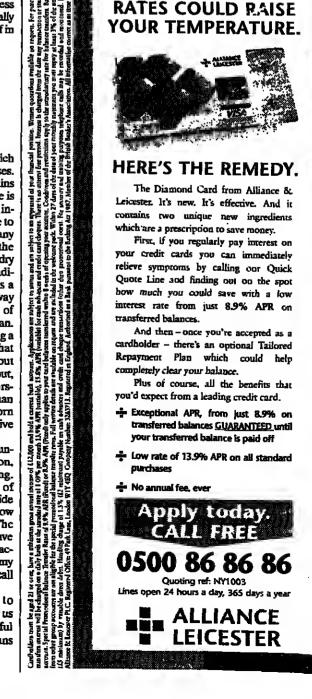
from the truth. As an arable farmer, foxes are very welcome oo my farm: they kill rabbits and rats which can cause economic loss. Foxes are also a beautiful sight in the wild. Small lambs that die in a field overnight are occasionally picked up by foxes as

blamed for killing lambs which have died from natural causes.

The farmer who complains of a fox in his chicken house is hlaming the fox for his own incompetence. It is very simple to safeguard livestock from any threat a fox may bring to the farm. Decent animal husbandry takes care of that. If an individual fox is a pest, there is a cost effective and humane way of killing: it takes the form of a gun and a skilled marksman. I cannot imagine ever having a fox population in my area that would necessitate a cull, but even if this were to come about. I do not believe that 30 horses, a pack of hounds and a man in a pink jacket blowing a horn would be the most effective form of pest control!

I am a member of the Country Landowners Association. which supports foxhunting. They advocate the freedom of choice for landowners to decide whether or not they will allow hunting on their land. The reality, however, is that I have choseo to be oo part of this activity; but if a fox runs on to my land the hunt are unable to call the hounds off the sceot.

I wish every success to Michael Foster's Bill to give us country dwellers a peaceful life free from these hooligans



# Flextech close to BSkyB supply deal

By Peter Thal Larsen

British Sky Broadcasting, the satellite television group, is close to a deal with Flextech, the programme provider, to carry Flextech's channels oo BSkyB's digital satellite service when it launches in June.

Discussions have been taking place this week between Mark Booth, BSkyB's chief executive, and Roger Luard, his counterpart at Flextech. Sources close to the discussions think a deal could be signed within the next few weeks. BSkyB and Flextech both refused to comment.

A deal with Flextech would give BSkyB access to a number of channels based on BBC programmes. Flextech has an exclusive 30-year joint venture to package programmes from the BBC as commercial television channels for broadcast via cable and satellite.

The venture, known as UKTV, currently supplies UK Gold, a channel based on old BBC comedies and soap operas, to BSkyB's existing satellite service. Another three channels - UK Arena, UK Horizons and UK Style - are currently available

Under the terms of the deal, however. BSkyB would make all four channels available to subscribers to its digital service. Viewers would also have access to Flextech's other channels, including Bravo and Liv-ing, which are already available via BSkyB's existing service.

UKTV is also planning to launch another four channels, including a music package and a sports entertainment offering, all of which would be made available to BSkyB digital subscribers.

The deal will provide a boost to both BSkyB and Flextech. BSkyB needs to of- after it was confirmed as the supplier of fer a good range of programmes when it the BBC's Digital Terrestrial Television launches its 200-channel digital service io service.

June. Although it already plans to offer premium sports and movie channels, its current offering is short on basic channels which do not require extra payment. Meanwhile, Flextech needs access to as many digital television viewers as it can reach.

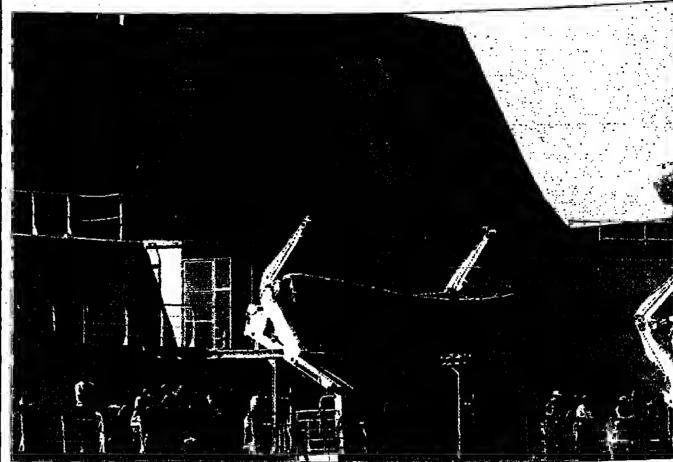
The move is likely to give BSkyB the necessary credibility to attract other programme packagers from other suppliers.

Flextech has already agreed to supply a package of four channels including UK Gold and UK Horizons to British Digital Broadcasting, the joint venture between Granada and Carlton which is planning to launch in the autumn.

Previous discussions between BSkyB and Flextech are thought to have foundered on the issue of price. In the meantime, Flextech has been exploring other options to get access to British viewers. These included exploring launching its own package of programmes, which would be marketed separately. The company also suggested a deal which would see it mount a reverse takeover of BDB, thereby giving it an equity stake in the broadcaster and providing BDB with a stock market listing.

However, the deal would make those moves unnecessary. It is also likely to be enthusiastically received by shareholders in both companies. Flextech shares ended the day up 21p at 525p, while BSkyB shares put on 3p to 393p. Both companies' share prices have been under pressure recently as investors fretted about the prospects for digital television.

Meanwhile Castle Transmission International (CTI), the company which handles television transmission for the BBC and a number of radio and mobile phooe groups, yesterday said it planned to invest £100m in broadcasting capacity



Three years' grace: Merged company may escape regulatory controls on ferries such as P & O's 'The Pride of Cherbourg'

#### Beckett delays cap on P&O Channel prices

By Terry Macalister

P&O and Stena, the cross-Channel ferry giants, will not face a cap on the prices they can charge on their cross-Channel short routes for at least three years, it emerged yesterday as the Government gave the joint venture the green light. The companies expect the ferry line to commence business on 10 March.

The surprise decision by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, follows a lobbying campaign by Lord Sterling, P&O chairman, to treat the ferry firms more leniently, Mrs Beckett said in November that a price cap would be triggered by the end of duty free sales in 1999. But yesterday these requirements were watered down.

freight, will only commence in March 2001 P&O and 40 per cent by Stena of Sweden. and the European Commission can extend this date if it wishes.

The cap depends on duty free sales being abolished in 1999 and on P&O/Stena and Eurotunnel controlling between them 90 per cent of the market, Currently the three companies have an 82 per cent stake.

P&O and Stena will remove three of the 14 vessels they operate on three major 777p, Eurotunnel saw the development as a routes including Dover-Calais. At least 500, mainly seafaring, jobs will be lost in the restructuring, P&O estimates the two ferry companies will save £75m but will take a £38m restructuring charge in 1998.

Russ Peters, head of P&O European Fer-The price cap, which does not apply to new entity owned, which is 60 per cent by tainer shipping arms.

Joint chairmen Lord Sterling and Dan Sten Olssen welcomed the go-ahead which they have fought for since 1993. They said in a joint statement: "This is ex-

cellent news. Any remaining uncertainty has now been removed." The City gave the go-ahead a warm wel-

come, pushing up P&O's share price 7p to good opportunity to raise prices.

For P&O, the joint venture is another step in a broader corporate restructuring that began in 1996. In a hid to hring return un capital up to 15 per cent, Lord Sterling has sold off property, floated off Bovis Homes, and ries (UK), will be managing director of the established joint ventures for his bulk and con-

## **PanAm** in talks to be airborne

By David Usborne n New York

Pan American World Airways, the airline that filed for bankruptcy in the US yesterday, is in discussions for refinancing to put the carrier back in the air.

"We are in discussion with interested parties," Chief Executive Officer David Banmiller said, after a hearing in a bankruptcy court in Miami.

It ceased all operations yesterday, stranding hundreds of passengers in New York and at its home-base of Miami.

Passengers arriving for flights vesterday were greeted by signs informing them of the cancellations and instructions on obtaining refunds. The airline carried about

5,000 passengers daily to 14 cities. With its sky-blue logo and lettering, Pan Am will once again be absent from the skies. The latest version of Pan Am was created in 1996 as a domestic regional airline. Its owners and managers were relying in part on public goodwill towards a hrand that evoked the pioneering days of flight.

Unfortunately, Pan Am also has one much darker association with the 1988 Lockerbie disaster in Scotland. The tragedy contributed to the demise of the original Pan American which finally went out of business in

Aviation analysts vesterday said the carrier's main mistake was trying to establish itself as a major US airline, with cross-continent routes, too quickly. Pan Am was offering luxury service in widebody Airbus aircraft, while trying to keep costs down to those of discount rivals,

The corporate parent remains alive, however, and "will continue to seek outside sources of financing, or a merger, to attempt to resuscitate the airline in the near future". a statement said.

The slump in the bank's net fell because customers were us-Only a week ago, Pan Am altempted to staunch losses by partially pay back their mortgrounding two Airbus aircraft The hank's share of net and lying off 225 staff. It let go per cent in 1997 to 1.5 per cent it acquired Carnival Air, a no-frills Miami carrier. Pan Am had hoped to gain sufficient critical mass with Carnival to compete better with

> Before the bankruptcy announcement, shares in Pan Am were already at a paltry \$0.75 (45p), compared with a high of \$13,375, reached on 27 Septemher 1996, one day after the carri-

> er went public. While industry consultants noted that US airlines have often gone into bankruptcy and reemerged later - including Continental and TWA - there was scant optimism that the Pan Am planes would be in the air again in the

# A & L blames mortgage slump on windfall effect

By Lea Paterson

Alliance & Leicester (A&L), the year. UK bank, pleased the City yescent to £423m. The increase tions. "If we cannot use capital comes despite a slump in the A&L's share of net mortgage leoding in the second half of the

"It was a good set of figures, better than anticipated", said The banking sector was awash with merg- French newspaper, Sir Brian Pitman, which we would prefer to use to make jurity stake in the bank before the year Inigo Edsberg, analyst at Panmure Gordon.

Some in the City were disappointed that A&L, which converted from a building society to a hank last spring, did surance arms, writes Lea Paterson. nut follow in the Woolwich's footsteps and issue a special dividend.

However, Peter White, their sale to Société Générale of France, sults a fortnight ago, Sir Brian said: "We ally finally put up for sale. The French to Societe Generale. The £300m sale was A&L's chief executive, raised

He stated the bank would non-recurring costs, rose 18 per or to make suitable acquisi- meeting later this year.

hopes of a share buyback or a effectively in this manner we will petitors, the bank has oo in-coming year were life assurance special dividend later in the return it to shareholders", he

terday with a robust set of an- first look to use its excess capi- holders for the authority to buy ropean adventures planned imum payout of £36 for those ments-in the second half of the operating profit, which excludes £700m, to fund organic growth shares at its annual general

Credit Lyonnais, the French bank, and off by the regulatory and political cli-

in talks to sell its estate agency and in- tion to France's "bureaucratic burden"

bros' core banking operations following presentation of the group's annual re-

tention of expanding over- and unit trusts. seas. Richard Pym, finance The A&L will ask its share- director, said: "We've no Eu- to 14.4p per share, netting a min- lending less mortgage repay-

the UK". Unlike many of its com- ly areas for acquisitions in the 18.5p to close at 965p.

Lloyds TSB eyes up Crédit Lyonnais takeover bid

er rumours yet again yesterday. Lloyds chairman of Lloyds TSB, said he would an acquisition. We are generating more 2000.

Hambros, the banking group, said it was mate in France. Sir Brian drew attenthree-year high in Paris yesterday as

"significant redundancies" in Ham- desire for further acquisitions. At the prospect that the French bank could at-

In an interview with Le Figuro, the are rapidly building up excess capital government has to dispose of its ma-

and its inflexible labour market.

TSB admitted to having run its ruler over like to buy Credit Lynnnals, but was put than £1bn in surplus funds."

The dividend rose 28 per cent Mr Pym said the most like- the shares gained a further

Shares in Credit Lynnnais hit a

analysts took stock of Sir Brian's com-

ments. The Paris financial communi-

Lloyds has frequently expressed its ty was said to be cheered by the Hambros Insurance Services Group.

By Nigel Cope

City Correspondent

mortgage lending - which ing their windfall payments to equals total (or gross) mortgage

nual results. Underlying tal, which stands at around back up to 10 per ceot of its ... we've got so much to do in A&L investors who kept hold of year was attributed by Mr Pym mortgage lending fell from 2.3 550 workers last September when their windfall shares. Yesterday to impact of conversion.

According to Mr Pym, A&L's

Meanwhile, Hambros, the banking group, said it was considering a num-

ber of expressions of interest in its re-

maining husinesses - Hambro Countrywide, the estate agency, and

The group also said it had complet-

in 1996. A number of the recentlyconverted huilding societies, such as the Woolwich, have reported similar slowdowns in net mortgage lending, and have claimed this was due to in-

creases in mortgage repayments. However, their competitors believe the slowdown reflects underlying uncompetitiveness, claiming the recently converted building societies have lost many

customers in recent months. These customers, it is said, were unwilling to change mortgage providers earlier in the year for fear of losing out on their free windfall shares.

#### Trust Motor approach worries institutions

By Michael Harrison

INSTITUTIONAL investors in Trust Motor Group, the car distributor formerly known as Less than nine months ago, the Barr and Wallace Arnold, expressed concern yesterday after the company disclosed it had re- pany sold its Wallace Arnold eived a hid approach from its nanagement priced at about the to a management huy-out team net asset value of the business.

ry Nicholas Barr who owns £18m. Since then the shares per cent of the company. His have drifted down by more rother Robert and Trust Autor's former chairman Malolm Barr own a further 9 per

pected an offer of around 220p valuing the company at £33m.

shares were trading at 343p.

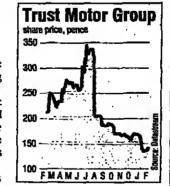
It also emerged there would be

In August last year the comcoach tours husiness for £42m and paid out a 120p special div-The management team is led idend to shareholders costing than 200p. Yesterday's hid announcement lifted the shares from 139.5p to 196.5p.

vided discussions reached a deal very carefully to make satisfactury conclusion, it ex- sure shareholders are not being

legged over." Another institution said: "We will scrutinise the deal once it is in the open and if we don't feel it is a good price we will be looking for other buyers to step in."

Richard Bell, Trust Motor's finance director who is not part of the buy-out team, and the nonexecutive directors formed an independent committee to review the offer and asked its advisers Peugeot dealerships and bought Hambros to seek other indicative a body repair business last Debids. As a result the independent One large shareholder said: directors are in discussions with June it made a £2.3m pre-tax The company said that, pro- "We will want to look at this one other potential purchaser profit on turnover of £122m.



apart from the management team. Trust Motor operates a number of Ford, Vauxhall and cember. In the half year to last

## Argos investors unhappy about generous terms for departing chief

tract quality buyers when it is eventu- ed the sale of its core banking businesses

INSTITUTIONAL investors in Argos are unhappy about the "overly generous" extra payments being made to Bob Stewart, the company's finance director, who is stepping down later this year. They are also unimpressed by the timing of the announcement which was made on Thursday in the small print of the defence document.

They are concerned that it leaves Argos fighting the £1.6bn hostile bid from Great Universal Stores with a chief executive who has only been in the job for extraordinary. They are putting with a lukewarm reaction in the ing too upmarket.

three weeks and a finance di- his salary up. increasing his City which expressed surprise rector who is leaving.

"It doesn't fill you with great confidence," one said. "So far, they are basing their defence on the company's track record. But if the people responsible for that performance are going. that is a concern. " Argos has increased Mr Stewart's pay from £200,000 to £360,000 from April and is pay-

ing him a one-off bonus of £196,000. One senior fund manager said the payments were surprisingly generous. "The sums

J)

It could work out at £2m." However, some investors

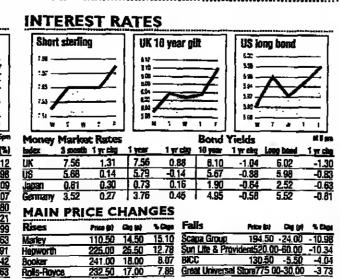
were more supportive, saying Argos did not have the reputation of being a lavish payer and that its probity should be welcomed. "I think they have been pretty straight about it." one City analysts and investors

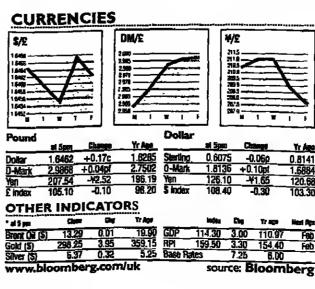
have expressed concerns about fence document. The ducu-

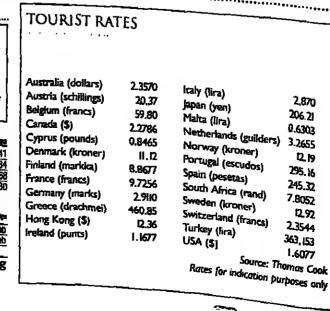
pension and hringing it forward. about the lack of detail in the current trading statement and the absence of news on a special dividend. The defence does not seem sparkling." one

Stuart Rose, the new chief executive, is looking at three main areas to improve trading performance. These are improvements to the catalogue to make it more modern, imthe way details of Mr Stewart's provements to the stores to departure were buried in the make them more welcoming and shifts in the pricing structhey are handing over are quite ment itself has been greeted higher priced ranges without go-

# TOCK MARKETS FTSE 100 Change(%) 52 wt High 52 wt low Yield(%)







عَلَدًا مِن ألاصل

A V





#### **JEREMY** WARNER

ON WHY THE CITY IS WRONG ABOUT THE GLAXO WELLCOME MERGER WITH SMITHKLINE

BEECHAM

#### What Genghis has to teach us about mergers SOMEWHERE deep in the Vatican's Papal archive there lies an exchange of corre-

spondence dating back to the mid thirteenth century between the then Pope and Guyuk Khan, grandson of the legendary Genghis, the great Mongol conqueror. Loosely transtated, it reads something like this.

Pope to Khan: "You are a sinner of the worst possible kind and I am hurt to my very soul by the damage you are causing. However. if you come to Rome and repent, I can offer you the gift of baptism, redemption and ever tasting life".

Khan to Pope: "I do not understand what you are saying. As head of this great dynasty, I am already descended directly from God, In any case, having studied all the world's major religions, t find one very much like another. However, if you come to my court and worship at my feet, I promise not to sack Rome and not to slay you, as I have slayed others".

I cite this story to make a point about personal and cultural incompatibility, of which we have read much this week with the breakdown of the planned merger between Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham.

There was a time when the Holy Roman Empire and the Pope deliberately courted the Mongols as ailies against Islam. An alliance of interest was proposed, in effect a merger. It is not hard to imagine how in the corporate parlance of today this might have been sold to sceptical chieftains and cardinals. Just think what we could achieve together, the Pope might have said. Combine your military might and unrivalled administrative skills with the unifying force and commanding spiritual power of my religion and we'd have a world beater of truly global proportions.

It was never to be. The great Khan believed himself directly descended from God, a proposition the Pope could never accept, even though it was not dissimilar to that of his own as Christ's vicur on earth directly descended through apostolic succession from St Peter the Apostle. When hearne to slaughter and pillage, the two probably had more in common than the Church would like to admit. But fundamentally they were different. The Church saved its wrath for Muslims and heretics. The Mongols made no such distinction.

Culturally and personally, then, the two empires - the one spiritual but with a beavy hand on the secular, the other entirely secular - could never ally themselves. Culturally they were too dissimilar, and personally their titular heads occupied positions pretty much identical to each other. "If I'm emperor, what does that make you?", they might have said one to another. In unison, they would have answered their own question thus: "Why, my servant, of course."

I don't want to stretch the analogy tno far. For a start it is not clear who, between the Yorkshire grit of Sir Richard Sykes of Glaxo, and the go getting determination of Jan Leschly of SmithKline, would best be crist as the great Khan. No doubt both would

regard it as insulting to be passed over and assigned the role of Pope. But plainly we can learn something from the parallel. In the City, the collapse of the merger talks is widely blamed on a clash of personality, on the inability of either to accept they should play second fiddle to the other. Outrage! How dare these people let their egos get in the way of all that shareholder value, every-

But actually, in truth, is this not just the way of the world? Is it really possible for big, successful, autocratically run corporate empires to be merged on agreed and equal terms? Or are the cultural differences and the fact that invariably both bosses believe themselves and the corporate model they have created superior to the other, obstacles that are just too big to surmount. In the City no obstacle would be deemed large enough to stand between the investment banker and his fee. Ask him to knock down Everest and he would attempt to do it. But wbether these mega mergers are either in the public interest, or the longer term interests of shareholders, is a different thing.

The arguments in favour of big consolidating mergers are well rebearsed. Essentially they are to do with scale, cost cutting, and the enhanced market clout of the larger organisation. In pharmaceuticals there is a separate "gee-whiz" technology justification tacked on. At its most basic, this is simply to do with the enhanced prospect of drug discovery and development that a larger research and development budget hrings.

But it also bas to do with the rival techpologies that different pharmaceutical companies are developing. SmithKline is considered strong in gene identification technology, or genomics, and has invested heavily in it. Glaxo's great hope for the future is its investment in combinatorial chemistry. Both technologies, it is said, offor the prospect of a quantum leap in drug discovery, development and healthcare. Put the two together and the combination

would be unbeatable. The trouble is that nobody knows whether this proposition is true. The hest guarantee of consumer choice and interest is nearly always competition and diversity. To believe this is reversed in the case of pharmaceuticals, and that it is hegemony that is capable of producing the best result, is to suspend the accepted laws of eco-

The public interest is one thing. What about the long term interests of investors? These things can be made to work, and to generate value. Both SmithKline Beecham and Glavo Wellcome are themselves the result of successful mergers. What tends to happen in the successful merger, however. is not a coming together and mixing of two corporate cultures, but a subsuming of one by the other. The financial terms of the deal may justify the description merger, but in practice what is occurring is a takeover. The laws of natural selection reign, and a dominant species emerges.

What seems to have happened with

Glaxo/SmithKline is that Sir Ricbard took it into his bead that Mr Leschly's centralised way of running things with its rigid lines of reporting and responsibility (the SmithKline corporate model in other words) was wholly inappropriate for Glaxo. Since Mr Leschly was to be chief executive of the combined company, this was obviously going to be a problem. You can call that ego, if you like, but plainly it is reflective of more fundamental differences. If the next few years was to be spent in factional infighting and scheming, the merger would have ended up causing more harm than good to sharebolder value.

The City still wants this merger to happen. The solution would seem to be, then, to get one company to take over the other - to bring about a situation, as it were, where Genghis Khan is allowed to sack Rome. Since these days investors don't on the whole approve of hostile takeovers, with the hid premium they invariably involve, the battle would have to be fought on neutral terms. The choice would not be the usual one of accepting an offer or rejecting it, but between two opposed management approaches.

That choice could be put either directly to institutions, many of which own sbares in both companies, or more practically it could be made by non executive directors. Better still, the two companies could decide to call it quits and go their own separate ways. Some mergers just aren't meant to bappen.

# Forest's promotion gamble highlights football's cash divide

By Andrew Yates

NOTTINGHAM Forest yesterday highlighted the growing gulf between the financial fortunes of football clubs in the Premier League and the First Division by suggesting it would have to sell star players and slash costs if its gamble to win promotion this season fails.

The club, which was relegated from the Premiership last season, but is currently second in the First Division behind Middlesborough, is clocking up huge losses by keeping on expensive players in a make-or-break effort to get back to the top.

In an example of how the influence of the City has pervaded the modern game, Nottingham Forest will have to cut back dramatically on expenses to make up for lost millions of TV revenues if it stays in the lower division.

"As a public limited company, over the long term our cost base has got to be in line with our revenues. We are very conscious of the fact that we

cannot keep on losing money," said Philip Soar, Nottingham Forest's chief executive vesterday.

The average Premier League club receives £8m from BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, to screen live games. However First Division clubs typically get just £800,000. That gap is due to widen even further, with teams in the lop flight likely to receive payments well in excess of £10m over the coming few seasons.

Nottingham Forest made a loss of £6.5m in the six months to November. The players and staff bill of £4.7m meant it made a loss of £2.4m at the operating level. It also spent £4m on transfer fees.

A group of financiers, including Philip Soar, Nigel Wray, the property magnate, and Irving Scholar, the former Tottenham chairman, bought the club, famous as 1979 and 1980 European Cup winners, in March for £16m. Since then they have spent £11m on players, and only raised £3.5m from transfers, including the sale of Brian Roy, the Dutch international.

The club raised £2.6m by selling new shares at 70p, in a flotation last October, However the shares fell another 1p to 57.5p yesterday. Mr Soar said the poor performance matched the slump in football sector generally which has proved a turn off for investors over the last 12 Meanwhile Wigan Athletic,

another club hoping to break into the hig lime, announced that it had appointed Alfred McAlpine, the construction group, to huild a £24.5m new 25,000 all-scater stadium. David Whelan, chairman

of Wigan Athletic, plans to build a dual purpose stadium on the site of an old athletics ground at Robin Park, which will also house Wigan Warriors, the rugby league team. Mr Whelan raised almost £17m last summer from selling shares in JJB Sports, his sports goods retail chain, to fund the new development.

Coffee Republic plans to treble its outlets after £8.5m placing



COMPANY RESULTS

Coffee Republic, the chain of coffee bars founded by an ex-investment banker and his sister and backed by the Bahamas-based millionaire Joe Lewis, is raising £8.5m to treble its number of outlets. The AIM-listed company has brought in Nicholas Jeffrey, the former Cantors boss, as chairman. A placing of 40 million shares at 21p will

enable Coffee Republic to increase its chain from 11 to 35 with new outlets in London, Manchester and Newcastle. The company was formed in 1995 by Bobby Hashemi, formerly of Lehman Brothers, and his sister Sahar, a solicitor. The placing will value the business at £18.5m and reduce their combined holding to 16 per cent.

#### **Deutsche Bank US chief** quits as shake-up continues

ica and former co-head of global investment banking, is expected to leave the company within weeks. Mr McClelland's decision is believed to be connected with the continuing reorganisation of the bank and the appointment of Bill Harrison, former head of BZW, as vice-chairman of DMG, Deutsche's investment banking arm. The news follows the resignation earlier this week of Maurice Thompson, also former co-head of investment banking. Mr Harrison, who will spearhead the integration of Deutsche's investment and global banking arms, officially starts work on Monday. Deutsche's over-

#### Barclays to cut securities jobs

BARCLAYS is to make 300 staff redundant at its global securi-

UNITED NEWS & Media, Lord Hollick's media group, yesterday confirmed the long-awaited sale of the last of its regional newsagreements mark a further step in the consolidation of regional

101p a share, valuing Bluebird at £42m.

## Glaxo may get institutions' support for bid

By Andrew Yates

GLAXO Wellcome may receive the support of a number of large institutional investors if it launches a no-premium hostile bid for SmithKline Beecham, h emerged yesterday.

But some of Glaxo's sbareholders are understood to lukewarm about the prospect of the group offering a large premium for SmithKline, which could destroy some of the potential value created by the

Merger talks between the

bave led to the largest corporate deal in history, broke down

on Monday night. "We would be interested in getting back some of the value that was promised to us but was taken away. But paying a premium could prove risky," said one fund manger.

News that Glaxo was contemplating a hostile hid for the group sent shares in SmithKline up 51p to 779p yesterday in early trading before they slipped back to 760p. Glaxo's shares fell 57p to 1700p on fears that it

two drugs giants, that would be might be tempted to pay a large premium for its rival.

> Analysts pointed out that Glaxo would have to overcome several obstacles to launch a nopremium hostile hid for SmithKline. Under accounting rules Glaxo may be forced to right off up to £40bn of goodwill, which would depress future earnings, although some experts believe this problem is not insurmountable.

SmithKline are also likely to put up strong resistance to any such move. "They will not give up without one hell of a fight. It could get very bloody and costly," said one industry analyst. Observers believe SmithKline could even resort to seeking another pharmaceuticals partner to fend off a hostile hid.

Glazo plans to meet instituuonal investors over the next few weeks, when it would have a chance to sound them out about takeover proposals. If it did launch a bostile hid it would probably look to sell SmithKline's consumer bealthcare husiness to concentrate on developing a powerful drugs

	Turnover £	Pre-tax (	EPS	Dividend
Altiance & Lalosster (F)	- t-)	395 Om (306 Om)	44 8p (32 Op)	20.8p (16.3p)
Allied Lobsey (I)	22.1m (18.9m)	1.485m (1.363m)	1.18p j1 07p)	0.35p (0.33p)
Anteouv (F)	0.488m (0.233m)	-1 6m (-1.8m)	-2.10p (-2.46p)	nE an
Slucbird Toys (F)	58.56m (67.66m)	5.29m (8.998m)	10.Sp (14.7p)	9.0p (9.0p)
Fieldans(f)	1.86m (2.39m)	-38.76m (-60.91m	)-0.62p (-0.86p)	nì
Prederick Cooper(I)	27.7m (28.2m)	0.740m (0.776m)	-1.3p (-2.2p)	ni
Go-Ahead Greep (I)	207.8m (120.0m)	20.37m (7.99m)	27.1p (14.1p)	3.0p (2.15p)
London Flamaça & lav (F.	·+·)	0.376m (1.084m)	0 97p (2 75p)	0.9p (0.8p)
Presider Littel (F)	12.3m (11.1m)	-24.89m (-5,20m)	-32.0p (-10.7 p)	pil
Wates City of Lood (F)	-61	6.33m (0 19tm)	2.17g (-0.70p)	-61
(F) - Final (I) - Interim	t EPS is pre-excupt	tionals "Dividend to	be paid as a RD	

sorted out.

#### WHO'S SUING **WHO**

IOHN WILLCOCK

R



A WIFE who was sent to jail three years ago after remortgaging the marital home with eight different lending institutions is the subject of a writ this week from First National Bank, one of the lenders.

Winifred Mary Watmough is one of 10 defendants in the writ from First National, together with her husband Walter Samuel Watmough and Alliance & Leicester, the first institution to lend to the couple.

Mrs Warmough managed to raise loans secured on ber home from nine different lending institutions in a borrowing spree which lasted from 1968 to

First National is seeking to unwind the tangle of legal claims and counter claims left over from the case, which centres on the Watmough's home, "Westwynds", Laleham Reach, Chertsey, Surrey. The house itself is only currently worth about £200,000, a figure likely to be exceeded by the lawyers' fees incurred in the saga.

In total First National is suing the Watmoughs, Alliance & Leicester, Lloyds Bank, Alliance & Leicester Personal Finance, Mercantile Credit Company, Abbey National Personal Finance, National Westminster Bank, TSB Direct and Bardays Bank.

The story starts in 1969 when the couple bought their house using a mortgage from Alliance & Leicester totalling £3,089. In 1982 the Watmoughs borrowed another £25,182.45 from Forward Trust Charge, again secured

By 1988 the value of the bouse had grown to £220,000, and in July of that year First National lent Mr and Mrs Watmough £56,000, secured on the

This sum was used to pay off another mortgage and to improve the house. In January 1990 First National advanced another £5,662.37 to the couple.

On 4 April 1990 Alliance & Leicester wrote to First National saying that it was making a further advance to Mr and Mrs Watmough. First National's writ claims: "The

said representation was untrue." It continues: "Mr Watmough denies that he was a party to the said trans-

"In May 1995 Mrs Watmough was convicted of obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception and four counts of making a false instrument and sentenced to a term of imprisonment." "The said false instruments included the Plaintiff's Charge and the further advance transactions with Alliance &

"It is to be inferred that in fact, Mrs Watmough had deceived the Plaintiff and Alliance & Leicester by forging Mr Watmough's signature on the said Charge and further advance transac-

Believing that both Mr and Mrs Watmough were borrowing the money from Alliance & Leicester, First National agreed to sign a "Deed of Postponement" acknowledging the society's further charge over the house. In fact the money only went to Mrs Watmough, the writ says, rendering the postpone-

ment deed null and void. First National now claims that it is owed a total of £204,949.90 including

The writ adds: "The fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eight, ninth and tenth defendants are joined as persons claiming to be interested in the Property .... It transpires that Mrs Watmough

managed to raise further money secured on "Westwynds" from Lloyds Bank on February 1993, from Alliance & eicester Personal Credit on 14 April 1993, from Mecantile Credit Company on 17 June 1993, from Abbey National Personal Finance on 12 July 1993, from NatWest Bank on 1 November 1993, from TSB Direct on 19 July 1994, and lastly from Barclays Bank on 21 March 1995.

Davis & Co, the solicitors representing First National Bank, are demanding a declaration that the deed of postponement given to Alliance & eicester is null and void.

It also wants the first three charges granted over "Westwynds" to be given 1 can assure you he has no white hair."

priority as the whole financial mess is

THE Inebriated Newt is sueing The Baby Grand Hotel Company over the lease for the Newt's restaurant at 172 Northcote Road, a fashionable area of London near Clapham Junction.

The Newt is demanding "Relief, if necessary, against forfeiture of the Lease dated 1 February 1985 in the respect of the premises....

It is also seeking a declaration that "the defendant was not entitled to seek to re-enter the aforesaid premises, as it did on or about the 4 December 1997".

LASTLY, David Gower is suing a Devon- based maker of surfing gear over an alleged trademark infringement.

My enquiries about the writ prompted laughter from a member of solicitors Bond Pearce of Plymouth, acting for Mr Gower; no, this isn't the famous cricketer, he said. The plaintiff is in fact a maker of surfing related clothing,

under the trademark "Headworx". The surfing Mr Gower is based at Manor House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot. The solicitor tells me: "Tve never known him to be confused with the cricketer before. I've met him, and

# CARTER MCCLELLAND, head of Deutsche Bank North Amer-

haul of its operations is expected to cost 9,000 jobs world-wide.

ties centres at London and Trowbridge in Wiltshire, according to UNIFI, the hanking union. The job cuts follow Barclays' decision to exit the global securities husiness in 1996. The redundancies at London and Trowbridge had previously been expected in September of this year, but Barclays' staff were informed earlier this week that the timetable had been brought forward. Barclays said it expected more than half the redundancies to be voluntary.

#### United News sells to Candover

papers to a group led by Candover, the venture capital group, for £360m. United News said it also agreed to sell its UPN Espana unit to Hebdo Mag International Group for £42.75m. The sale newspapers, as media companies rationalise their diverse

#### Bluebird urges bid rejection

BLUEBIRD TOYS yesterday urged its shareholders to reject what it termed a half-hearted bid from investment firm Guinness Peat Group. GPG, chaired by New Zealander Ron Brierley, has offered

#### INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT



#### Lifelong Learning The Role for Universities

Thursday 5 March 1998 • Central London

The Government is due to publish a series of White Papers on Lifelong Learning in early 1998, from the DITE, Scottish and Welsh Offices. This one day CVCP conference will explore the role for universities in developing and ting the Government's proposals. Universities already play a significant role in lifelong learning, providing courses at all levels - HND, undergraduate, PhD and CPD. How will the developments announced in the White Papers affect this role? In particular what changes will be needed in nanagement, access, curriculum and funding! How can higher ducation generally develop its interface and partnership with further ducation to deliver the flexible learning opportunities that lifelong

academics, careers advisers and training and personnel officers in busines and funding organisations.

ssor Bob Fryer, Principal, Northern College (Lifelong Learning Advisory Group) Dr Geraldine Kenney-Wallace, MD and VC, Bridsh Acrospace Virtual University

#### Delegate Fees

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# Building material groups in the merger spotlight

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

The stock market's perennial fascination with takeover action kept shares in record breaking form,

even more volatility than usual, it was among the second-liners that much of the rumoured

action was concentrated. of 17.5p, said it never com-

action. their year's high. Marley touched 134.5p in June and a few months earlier Hepworth hit 284.5p. The companies would make a good fit with a combined capitalisation of

more than £800m. The building materials sector was also helped by positive comments from SBC

midcap share in form. It jumped 90p (after 115p) to 1.325p with the inevitable bid With Footsie displaying story circulating. The shares came to market late in 1997

The company is not expected to make a profit until Two huilding material 2,002. Last year turnover groups hogged the limelight, more than doubled to £81.5m prompting suggestions they and losses rose from £11.2m intend to merge. Marley up to £32.6m. It has huilt or is exchanges in European cities, mented on market rumours. including London and Berlin, Hepworth, up 25.5p to 225p, and plans to start operations was unable to produce any re- in a further six European centres. The company spe-The two groups are below cialises in business-to-business operations, the high value Nasdaq listing.

end of the market. An overseas bid is widely expected, probably from the

Footsie ended an erratic session, with a modest 2.5 points gain which nevertheless took it to yet another peak.

It swung between a gain of

rampant. The FTSE 250 index sorts it says: "Bass has got to 333p. closed 68.7 up at a 5,201 gained 11.6 to 2,469.2.

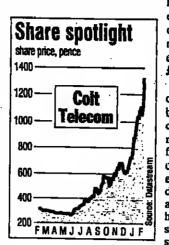
much of an early surge. Hopes that Glaxo Wellcome will mount a hostile bid for its 14.5p to 110.5p, a two day gain huilding six local telephone ed the shares 51p in early trading. At the close the gain was down to 12p with the price at 760p. Glazo ended 57p lower at 1,700p.

Shield Diagnostic gained 30p to 650p on rumours of a

Rolls-Royce was the best performing hlue chip, rising 17p to 232.5p ahead of next week's results. Positive comments from ABN Amro and Morgan Stanley helped. Hays, the husiness services group also with figures next week, improved 38p to 940p. Bass was lowered 22p to

peak of 5,821.8, and a fall of hoisted a sale sign. On the fail to 516.5p by Tesco and £1.8bn acquisition of Inter- Charles Stanley advice to sell But midcaps were again Continental Hotels & Re- Rank left the shares down 11p itself back into playing the high. The smallcap index hotel asset cycle again. This may prove to be rightly timed

> paid does not allow for any disappointment".



BTR, with results next week, was heavily traded al- 69.75p. The group had to conthough the price ended little SmithKline Beecham lost but it is clear that the price changed at 101p. There was even unlikely talk of a hid with Caterpillar, the US giant, the buy list although it is positive Credit Lyonnais Laing name in the frame. BTR is long term. It frets about a cash halfway through a reshaping exercise which involves £5bn of disposals. Year's profits next week are likely to emerge at £1.1bn against

£1.3hn. Trust Mntor, a garage chain, produced the day's best gain, a top gear 40 per cent performance to 196p. It other possible bidder hov- South American state.

ers. The company was

Colt Telecom was another 57, which took it to a trading 1,018p as NatWest Securities caution contributed to a 5.5p 132p low at the start of this

Go-Ahead, the hus and trains group, improved 19p to 584p following interim figures.

Verity was unchanged at tend with Merrill Lynch caution. The investment house has removed the shares from its call to continue the development of the NXT wafer-thin sound system. The flat speaker technology has attracted 20 licensing agreements but staff costs are increasing.

Emerald Energy fell 1.25p to 7.75p, reflecting Lasmo's intention to sell its Colombian operations and the lack of inmay collect a take over bid formation about the progress from its management. An- of Emerald's drilling in the

Newcomer Quad Healthdemerged from the old Barr care, a pharmaceutical group. and Wallace Arnold coach made a subdued start; closing holidays group when it was at 130.5p against a 130p sold to its management last launch price by Nomura, the

Wiggins, the property developer, held at 12.75p. Stockbroker Peel Hunt is keen on the shares. Analyst Chris Radmore sees profits climbing from £4.9m to £8m and then hitting £11m. Besides a range of property developments Wiggins has the civilian rights to Manston Airport in Kent and is bidding for the entire 700 acre Manston site which is being sold by the Ministry of Defence. The shares have climbed from 8.75p last year.

TAKING STOCK

Ronson, the luxury goods group, had another firm session, gaining 2.5p to 12p. The shares have doubled since stories started to circulate that Victor Kiam. the man famed for liking Remington shavers so much he bought the company, will move in as chairman. Ronson is in the process of a cash raising exercise with its US shareholder expected to play an important role. The sbares were 23.5p tast year and 65.5p fnur years ago



# 23/UNIT TRUSTS

# North's Angel looks at home



#### **Gateshead:**

After initial hesitation about its merits, this North-eastern town has taken to the gigantic figure that will be seen by some 33 million people a year.

THE gobs and southerners have all gone. Lord Gowrie, Anthony Gormley, Janet Street-Porter and the rest. And the people of Gateshead have been left alone with their Angel. They were not, thankfully, subjected to the presence of the plummy art critic Brian Sewell, who opined from the safety of the capital that Gormley's statue was vulgar, should be pulled down and the little North-eastern town bombed to the ground.

sophistication. "We hope he is very happy living in London," the leader of the town council, George Gill, responded drily.

Not that controversy has been restricted to a north-south axis. The Angel of the North is destined to become Britain's most-viewed public the site of the pit baths of Team Colwork of art. Sited next to the A1 and the railway between London and Edinburgh, it will be passed by 33 million people a year.

But its erection has not been without controversy locally. There sition of the human and the were petitions against its "Nazi gigantism", fears that its 175ftwingspan might interfere with tele-my, its torso was ribbed and subtle, visioo receptioo and complaints and its flat square-cut wings spoke that the £800,000 it cost would have of something man-made, for there beeo better spent in schools or are no right-angles in sentient nahospitals. The androgynous anonymity of its figure in the preliminary drawings earned it coodemnatioo as "a monument devoid of meaning - the perfect symbol for our vacuous times".

"The row is all part of the art," said Sean O'Brien, as he peered through owlish specs up at the towering sinuous statue with its huge rust-coloured wings. "You see the Angel through what you have heard or read." O'Brien is nothing to do with the sculpture.

He is a local poet of substance (his last volume, Ghost Train, won the Forward Prize) and he is currently engaged on an intriguing he ground.

CD-rom project with a dozen offiGateshead responded with more er writers, artists and computer programmers to produce The Book of the North, to re-imagine the region in a new mythological geography. I had invited him along as a cultural mediator.

> We were stood on the windy knoll at the side of the A1 which was once liery Building rubble and big chunks of coal were visible amid the soil cleared around the massive plinth on which the metal giant had somehow landed. It was an odd juxtapomechanical. Its face had the blankness of a computer-generated mumture. Yet the Angel is alive. "See its legs, tensed, like a diver on a board," said O'Brien, "or a gymnast waiting to seize the rine ".

Though the luminaries had all de-



Photograph: David Rose

Scaffolding oow stood between body and limbs. And the noise - the rumble of the crane, hum of a generator, and screeching of grinders sounded like the great creature's breathing. Periodically a welder's magnesium-white light flashed by the heart of the body and sparks tumbled in rolls down the ribbed trunk, prompting the half-thought that the electricity might spark the figure into action to stalk the bleak, wide-skied landscape like a latterday Frankenstein's monster.

For there is ambiguity about the ingel. Some have seen a menace in it, which is peakers wir reservations were still being expressed among parted, the birth-pangs continued. men in the nearby pubs or women

walking their dogs. A small number resent that the sculpture has been imposed upon them by councillors who live in other parts of the town. And yet you could say the same of an intrusive motorway or banal superstore. As Sean O'Brien put it: between the body and the wings. "It's as if the resentment comes out of the idea that art is decorative and superfluous, rather than something Hartlepool Steel Fabrications said. integral to life.

"It is the same utilitarian calcuhis which insists that the money (which came from the National Lottery's art budget) should have gone on health or education. But art the free a thee," he said, "and conveys a sense of the value of the people who live there."

came from a welder rather than a thetic which elevates the spirit. It is poet. Steve Robinson, clad in harness over his orange overalls, descended from the scaffold where he had been inserting the final plates "No one's ever attempted anything like this before," the welder from

For us it is something different to have a finished job we can look at and be proud of. I've been on this for seven months now. It will be odd to be back to humdrum pipework for the gas and oil industry next week. It will be a bit of an anti-climax after

Art counts for nothing if it does of the Angel of the North. "A lot of

Aptly enough, evidence of that not move, but it is not simply its aesa vehicle for pride too. The economy is booming in Gateshead. Unemployment has halved in recent times, confidence among manufacturers is higher than in any other UK regioo

and local companies last year in-

creased their turnover at three

times the national average. Yet Gateshead is probably one of the least fashiooable places in England. There is a sense here as people contemplate the Angel that "we needed something like this - it

shows what we can do". With surprisit speed the local people are, then, taking possession

people who didn't like it at first say it's growing on them," said Joan Grey, landlady of the nearby pub which was until recently The Old Barn Inn but is now renamed The Angel View. "Some people are coming every day to look at it."
There is even a sense of ownership about the dissent: The Angel Ate My Hamster," says the graffiti on the plinth. Visitors come to its feet in a steady stream - boys on their way to football, a snake of schoolchildren with their teacher, three OAPs who had taken the bus from Sunderland and then walked shakily with their sticks to the base.

"It's a magnificent piece of en-gineering," said Alan Hall, a retired shuttering joiner who had been born and bred in Gateshead and who had come from Seaham to see the edifice. "Just the plinth alone is a great piece of work. The foundation piles go 60ft into the earth and they say the bolts which fasten it down are 7ft apiece."

And an angel is just right. There was one suggestion that Gormley should have been asked to sculpt a miner in commemoration of the industry which dominated the local economy for 600 years, until Thatcherism. But that would have been to look to the past, and there is already wo mach "northege" start a count in the North. An angel is a being which mediates between Heaven and Earth and this one, with its feet in an extinct mine and its wings in a sky silver with hope, joins the area's past with its future. Made from the materials of the wreckage of the old industry - the steel has copper added to make it look rusty - it aspires to something transcendeot. This angel is secular yet cruciform. It is made of manifestly heavy substance and yet it can fly. It is the stuff of incarnation, for the material of this earth is all that we have from which to construct our dreams.

Wild tree-whipping winds blew up yesterday morning. The weathermen spoke of Force 12 and the bridges over the Tyne were closed to high-sided vehicles. But the Angel looked unperturbed in its new home. It stood, swaying like a giant oak, its massy wings outstretched in welcome to those who ventured North with an open mind.

Making an angel, ISM

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT

## 0 Conran lunch

The Independent and Independent on Sunday in association with Terence Conran are delighted to offer readers the opportunity to enjoy lunch or early evening supper at six of London's top restaurants throughout February for £10

Until Saturday February 28th, the following establishments are offering readers a two course lunch or early evening supper for just £10 per person.

#### How to Book

To participate in the offer simply collect one token (tokens will be printed every day until Saturday February 28th) and then telephone the restaurant of your choice quoting yourself as an Independent diner. On your arrival at the restaurant you should present your token in order to qualify for the offer. Each token is valid for a complete table booking. The tokens will be valid for one week only, and will be dated accordingly. To continue to participate in the offer, simply collect a token from the week in which you wish to dine. Pre-booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability.

A special discount is available on selected items in the Bluebird and Le Pont de la Tour shops on presentation of the token.





Mezzo





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Bluebird 350 King's Road. London, SW3 5UU

Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm - 7pm

Blue Print Café The Design Museum, 28 Shad Thames, London, SEI 0171 378 7031

Le Pont de la Tour Bar & Grill 36d Shad Thames, London, SEI 2YE

Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm -7pm Mezzo 100 Wardour Street, London; W1V 3LE

Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm -7pm\*

Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm - 7pm

closed Saturday lunchtime, open Sunday 12pm - 4pm

Quaglino's 16 Bury Street, St James's, London, SWIY 6AL Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Zinc Bar & Grill 21 Heddon Street, London, WIR 7LF

The special 3 course menu is available between 12noon and 7pm between Monday and Wednesday the offer is extended until 11pm\*

The offer is available 7 days a week at all six restaurants Closed from 6pm on Sunday Offer not available after 6pm on February 14 TOMORROW IN THE SEVEN-SECTION



# WELCOME TO **FATTY TOWERS**

Buster Bloodvessel was one of the biggest pop stars of the Eighties ... literally. But now his life is very different. Cole Moreton talks to him

#### **PLUS:**

Turn again – why London needs a female mayor Paparazzi wars – how Hollywood is fighting back Crossover culture - we're all Asian now

# TIME OFF

TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT



ekend at the Destinations '98 travel exhibition at Olympia, London WH. Further results of the competition are featured on page 5 nt/Wanderlust photographic competition. This - and the

# ENT Sun daze in Kerala

It's a neat reciprocation: tourism is thriving in Kerala, meanwhile the visitors themselves are tourist sights, as Sue Wheat found out

The young Indian on the train looked at me aghast. Then he smiled, as if he'd realised I was joking. I had just explained that white tourists sunbathe because being brown is considered more attractive. He, an English Literature degree student who had been waxing lyrical about Dickens, could not imagine anything more ludicrous. "Tourists sunbathe because their white skin is more sensitive than ours, and reling the sun on their bodies is amazing for them," was his explanation.

This was my fifth day in Kerala and I was already accustomed to cultural misinterpretations. It had started in Kovalam, the first stop for most charter tourists to this green, well-kept state. Kovalam is a beach resort 16km outside Kerala's capital, Thiruvanananthapuram (known more simply by its old name, Trivandrum) and was apparently palm-fringed and beautiful.

After eight years of being a charter flight destination, it now has a selection of restaurants and a host of souvenir shops lining the main beach. Some say it is spoilt, and the shopkeepers complain that the tourists have moved on to Varkala, a new and less developed beach farther north. But it is still a beautiful place, with the bustlings of Indian life. Every morn-Ing a line of 20 or so fishermen and boys sing a Kovalam shanty to help them work in time as they pull in their catch. It is still the stuff that picture postcards are made of.

We were here for a much-needed break in the middle of winter. Lying on the beach, reading and sleeping were our priorities. Apart from being famous for its Communist politics, high literacy rates, good health care and the high status of women, Kerala is also famed for Ayurvedic massage (using healing herbal oils) and yoga. We were going to have a self-indulgent, chilledout time. But the beach was in fact a strangely stressful place, fraught with moral dilemmas.

lks to him

emale mayor

, fighting back

sian now

The first was whether to sunbathe at all. Sunbathing is obviously not part of Indian culture, but this was a beach resort where it had become accepted for white tourists to do so. "Go

ahead," said the Indian shopkeeper we consulted on the matter. "We understand that you need to do it for your health." In a strange way, that is, of course, true, although it is not the way I had ever interpreted my desire for a suntan. "Don't worry." said some Indian girls on a day trip to the beach. "We don't do it because we are too shy to remove our clothes, but if

you want to, it's accepted." So we did. Yet we couldn't help but

cringe as flesby women in too-small bikinis strolled up to the fishermen and leant over in earnest interest to look at the day's catch. Even in swimsuit and

sarong I felt self-conscious. Part and parcel of indulging our need for vitamin D was being photographed by Indians who visit Kovalam oo Western tourist-watching tours. Many come on their way to Kanyakumari (also known as Cape Comorin),

tip of India. Kovalam is a welcome entertainment on the way. Just as we might visit a traditional village and take photos of locals going about their daily business, so the Indians travel to photograph us - a strange people who lie in their underwear in the blazing sun going a shade of red. It is, of course, perfectly understandable and reasonable for them to come and stare: but for us it was strange. Such is the a pilgrimage site at the southernmost price of a suntan.

We left Kovalam for a while and travelled around the state, making our way to Kumarakom where we intended to relax on a traditional wooden houseboat along the famous backwaters - Kerala's labyrinth of waterways through tropical greenery and past traditional fishing and coirproducing villages. We ended up being ushered into a speedboat by a proud old man, eager to show us that he had moved into the Nineties.

The speedboat took us to Cochin, (now known as Kochi), the commercial capital of the state, where Kerala's tea and spices are auctioned. Dotted along the beach at Fort Cochin are Chinese-style fishing nets. A traditional, photogenic scene if ever there was one (confirmed by the fact that sellers are poised to sell you reels of Kodak at the beach-side), these huge great nets hang in the air and are dipped into the sea on a cantilever mechanism of rocks and ropes.

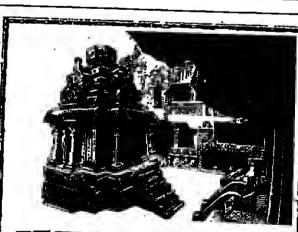
Unable to choose from the vast array of "fresh fish" at the stalls on the beach, we asked advice from a knowledgeable British expatriate who was working in the fishing industry. We were lucky, apparently, to be here now and not in a few years' time. "The hig foreign companies are fishing the place to death - there'll be nothing left in five years," he confided. He added that his conscience was forcing him to leave his job.

Back in Kovalam a week or so later, we arrived the day after an unusual event. The restaurateurs, shopkeepers and tourists had joined forces in a protest march on the town hall.

What could be so important that tourists would get involved in a political protest on holiday? "They were helping us protest for the right to sell beer," said our waiter. A restaurant owner had been imprisoned that week for selling beer to tourists, and our waiter was insistent about the need for change to the complex licensing laws in Kerala. "It is very important for us to be able to sell beer in Kovalam," he explained. "We know the tourists need to drink it - they need it for their

**SPORT FOOTBALL** United's quiet man

RACING The Ramsdens' biggest win



#### The magical caves of Ellora and ajanta reach δεερ into the soul.

Roughly 300 miles East of Bombay lie some extraordinary rock-cut caves. Ellora, dating back to 600 AD, boasts no less than 34 ancient caves with a glorious mix of Hindu, Buddhist and Jain sculptures and carvings (most famous is the Kailash Temple). Some 60 miles away lies Ajanta where the most exhilarating frescoes and wall paintings are displayed in 30 cave temples. Buddhists first began these artistic creations way back in the 2nd Century BC; but the site never came to light until 1819. See them for yourself.

They'll remain in the caverns of your mind forever.



For a free brochure call 01233 211999 or post this coupon to, India Tourist office, 7 Cork Street, London WIX 2LN.

changes you

#### INDIAN SPRING



Citizens' Charters: a passage by air to India is easier and, In real terms, cheaper, than ever. Sue Wheat paid £259 for a return flight from Gatwick to Trivandrum on Monarch through Manos (0171-216 8000).

On schedule: the main airlines flying

direct from the UK to Delhi and Mumbai (formerly Bombay) are Air Canada, Air India, British Airways and United Airlines. Many other airlines will get you to Delhi indirectly, stopping anywhere from Ashkhabad to Zurich. The lowest fares are always available from discount travel agents rather than direct from airlines. One useful agent for non-stop flights is

Welcome Travel (0171-439 3627), a leading discounter for Air India; other firms offer good deals on a range of carriers. Sample fares from Bridge the World (0171-911 0911) for travel in March are: Trivandrum £391 on Qatar Airways, Delhi £390 on Gulf Air via the Middle East, and Mumbal £330 on Alitalia.

Battling bureaucracy: British passport holders need a visa to visit India, usually the six-month, £19 tourist variety. Contact the High Commission of India, India House, Aldwych, London WC2B 4NA or the Consulate-General of India, The Spencers, 19 Augustus Street, Jewellery Quarter, Hockley,

Birmingham B #8 6DS, Call 0891 444544 (a premium-rate number)

Health: the only compulsory vaccination is for yellow fever, for people arriving from areas where it is endemic. But protection is advised against typhoid, polio, tetanus, hepatitis A and malaria. If you plan to stay more than three weeks. Immunisation against rables and hepatitis B could be advisable, Call the Masta advice line, 0891 224100 (premium rate) for details,

Information: Indian Government Tourist Office, 7 Cork Street, London WIX 2LN (0171-437 3677).

#### GREEN CHANNEL

This week the tourism industry has been obsessed with "E"s. The first "E" was Environmental. Wednesday night saw bigwigs in the industry flocking to the Banqueting House in London to see the British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Awards for projects "which have made a positive contribution towards their local environment or benitage". Winners included a nature reserve in Hawaii, a hotel in India. the St Lucia Marine Park and the waterfront

rejuvenation in Birmingham (see story, page 9). The second "E" was Ecological. On Thursday afternoon, environmentalists and tourism industry executives debated whether there should be no-go areas for tourism. The event, held at the Royal Geographical Society and chaired by David Bellamy, highlighted interesting issues - such as whether there should be areas that no one is allowed to visit, since they are just too ecologically sensitive. Or would that simply deny local people the right to earn a living?

And anyone who thinks they understand anything about E knows that it gives you the energy to rave on all night. So on Thursday evening the green revellers moved on to Radio 4 to record a debate linked with the travel exhibition. Destinations '98, at Olympia this weekend. Led by Julian Pettifer, the panellists took on another "E" - Ethics. Can we travel to Burma with a sound conscience if the military are forcing people to build the tourism infrastructure without pay? Is the new-found environmental awareness just green tourism marketing hype, or practical reality? What will happen when people from countries such as India and China start travelling? Do we have the monopoly on travel, just because we did it first?

The grandaddy of environmentalism, David Bellamy, insists that the tourism industry is getting greener - slowly. "Think how quickly package tourism ruined the Costa del Sol. Tourism is now the world's largest industry - it has ousted the petroleum industry from first place ... but they are beginning to put their house in order. The problem is that the high-rise hooligans and cheap package boys are always three steps ahead, and ready to ruin another destination. Our challenge is to keep up."

Radio 4's debate on ethical tourism will be broadcast on 7 March at 11.30am Sue Wheat

#### RED CHANNEL

How to cope with the Trans-Siberian Express -tips from The Russia Experience (0181-566 8846).

Is the Trans-Sib like the Orient Express? No, that's a luxury train for tourists - the Trans-Sib isn't. It's a year-round, working service on Russian or Chinese railways, and makes no concessions to tourists at all.

Is it dangerous in Russia? Not really - the Mafia are not interested in leisure travellers. If you dress down and act streetwise, you should be fine.

Do females get hassled in Russia? Levels of sexual aggression towards women are low. Sleeper trains are unisex; the tradition is that men "go for a walk" while the women prepare for bed, then the women look the other way while the chaps bed down.



# Euro bash: Cecilia Bartoli in 'Nina' at the Zurich Opera House

Zurich opera house sets an example that its London counterparts would do well to study. Despite a small budget it has remained in the black and its reputation for rare operas has attracted top league names.

The latest is Cecilia Bartoli, the feisty Italian diva who rarely accepts more than one annual operatic role in Europe. Given that ber voice, which, according to one critic, sounds as if she has swallowed a Stradivarius, is unsuited to 19th-century verisimo, Bartoli has begun a mission to unearth forgotten 18th-century works. Her latest discovery is Nina by the Italian composer Giovanni Paisielloo, which

opens in Zurich on March 14. It promises to be a happy find. Paisielloo ranked as Italy's finest late-18th-century composer and helped pioneer the transition of opera buffs from light entertainment to serious drama. He was the court composer for, among others, Empress Catherine of Russia and Napoleon and the most successful of his 83 operas was Il Barkière di Sivigli in 1782.

It was this that inspired Mozart to write Le Nozze di Figaro, and the young Rossini was so impressed he asked to set to the same libretto. The production of Nina, directed by Cesare Lievi and conducted by Adam Fischer, is one of

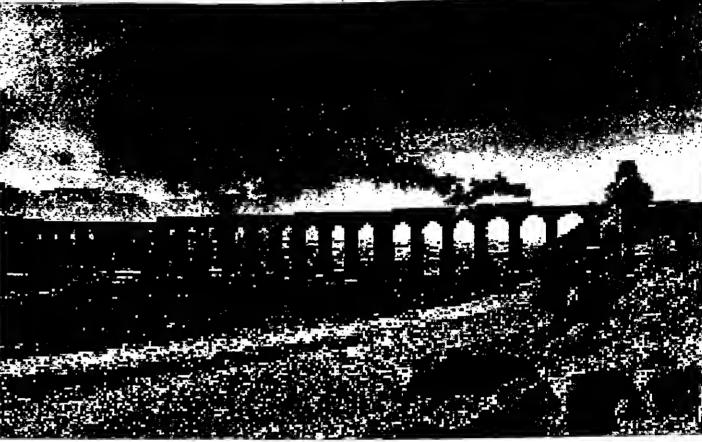
only a handful this century and if Puisiello's ll re Teodoro di Venezia staged in Dresden two years ago is anything to go by, should be well worth

Performances: March 14, 17, 20, 22: April 8. the wait. 11, 13, 16; July 19. Telephone 60 41 1 268 64 00.

There are 10 daily scheduled flights to Zurich from Heathrow with Swissair, British Midland and British Airways. A special offer throughout March costs £99 return if flying out and back on a weekday. Weekend prices start at £145 plus £25 airport tax. Details and bookings from Switzerland Travel Centre 0171 734 4577/4578.

Railway rambles: Matthew Brace heads north to Berwick while Brendan Fox celebrates 125 years of Thomas Cook Timetables

# White sand and holy places



In train: Thomas Cook celebrates 125 years of travel, below

hilly interior reaching up to some that call at both. the Cheviot Hills, and along empty, despite being well served by the railways. The bere between Newcastle and Edinburgh.

DON'T MISS TOMORROW'S.

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Northumbria is a blissfully run trains stopping at either deserted county, both in its Almouth or Berwick, and

its clean, sandy coast. It is most pleasing villages in the British Isles. 1ts red-roofed East Coast Main Line runs spit of land at the mouth of, oob and aah, and swear that Aln, where it empties into the on their next holiday. Great North Eastern Railways North Sea. A short terrace of

brightly coloured cottages faces south into the protected harbour, and in front of it Alamouth is one of the small fishing boats lie

beached at low tide. It is a view at which I have houses sit contentedly on a heard several train passengers predictably enough, the river that is where they are going

Berwick, England's most northerly town, takes just turning their over 20 minutes. The weather heads can be wild, yet the landscape follow is surprisingly gentle. It is not down bearly as bleak and harsh as road. visitors might expect. Leaving Alamouth station (which is just outside the village) the but sadly not train crosses rolling green hills, scattering sheep as it passes. There is a lot of evidence of ancient ridge and furrow farming in the fields agricultural evidence of this

county's ancient history. Every now and then low hills block the view, but they soon fall away and passengers get a breathtaking glimpse of the sbore. The waves are minty green in the sunlight, and the sweeps of sand look are the majestic sweeps of tropical white. As you follow the dunes with your eye from a speeding train, they run low down before sweeping

Not long after Alnmonth you will pass the RAF station at Boulmer. A rescue helicopter is based here, which you may see on manoeuvres, take two-hour tours out to the and near the shore is a cliffs to marvel at the

back down to sea level again.

spooky-looking military instal- perobatics of the terns and lation wired off with tall mesh fences, If you ever walk past it,

cameras

up the coast, visible from

Craster, famous for its factory St Cuibben in the seventh kippers which are sent all over the world to loyal expatriate word Lindis (the name of a customers. You may catch a glimpse of Dun-stanburgh Castle, standing silhouetted against the North Sea sky. To the north, beyond the castle, Embleton and Beadnell Bays, along which shepherds herd

their flocks of sheep. Now look out to sea and

famous as a bird reserve and in summer small fishing boats cormorants.

The ride from Alnwick to you can watch the security on the holy island of Lindisfarne

> earliest Christian

founded by churning out oak-smoked century. The name comes from the combination of the nearby stream) and fahren (a Celtic word meaning a place of retreat). As the train gets closer in the shore the rest of the island appears, cut off

> about five times a day. The train approaches Berwick, high up above the terracottal rooftons, and

Bridge over the Tweed before offshore, are the Farne Islands, a hird-spotter's paradise. The drawing in to the station. This was built on the original site of the Great Hall of Berwick Edward 1 declared in favour of Balliol as King of Scotland.

Border disputes have

plagued Berwick over the After the Farnes, the castle years and the town has

changed hands between England and Scotland 13 times during its history. A modern at dispute is going on right now, first like a not about territory but about a rock sticking public shelter. The borough up out of the council announced a contro-The versial plan to demolish the shelter, made famous by the one of the artist LS Lowry who painted it in 1939, showing it surrounded by his trademark matchstick settlements, people and cats and dogs. For the moment it still stands.

While in Berwick, don't forget to pick up a can of Berwick cockles, which are red-and-white-striped sweets. But beware - they can

How much: Adult day return, from the mainland by the tide £14.20 (children aged five to 15. £7.10)

Who to call: for more infor-mation call 0345 484950 or 0345 225225: Customers with up to 30ft or 40ft, and then there, less than a mile crosses the Royal Border special needs 0.345 225444

# THE WORLD'S **FAVOURITE** DESTINATION

France, region by region

plus: A city break in Rouen and Chateaux in the Loire valley

# For a train experience you won't forget, try Albania

Not many British publications can claim a history of 125 years, least of all a monthly timetable. The March 1998 edition of the Thomas Cook European Timetable, published this week, is celebrating the achievement with a special anniversary edition. This collector's issue breaks new ground, with a colour section parrating the history of the timetable. It also takes a glimpse at future rail developments.

The Odessa-Chernivtsi or Morges-Biere timetables may not be everyone's preferred bedtime reading, hut delving into the minutiae of European rail schedules reveals the fascinating

diversity of services on offer: Fastest trains The standard continues to be set by the 300km/h Trains Grande Vitesse (TGV) in France, but Europe's network of high-speed lines is expanding into Germany and Belgium. The latest to open, Lille-Brussels, illustrates what can be achieved by imagination and investment: five years ago Paris-Brussels took two-and-a-half hours in one of a handful of trains; today. Thalys trains ply almost hourly between these cities, taking just 85 minutes.

Slowest trains There are still plenty of charming branch lines, particularly in eastern Europe, where many a happy hour can be spent getting nowhere in particular at little more than running pace (what about Balatonfenyves-Csiszta in Hungary: 15 km in 50 minutes?), but sadly most of these are outside the scope of the Cook's timetable.

At least one international journey can be just as tedious, however - witness the 10-hour trip (when running to time, unlikely!) between Sofia and Thessaloniki. Poorly maintained track and long horder stups conspire to give an average speed of 22mph for the 354-km journey.

Most comfortable trains The fivestrong European timetable editorial team vote Germany's sleek white ICE Europe's best-appointed train. The latest French TGV designs come a close second, and Eurostar, at nearly a quarter of a mile long, certainly makes a lasting impression. These are only a few of the

high-speed designs now to be found. Worst trains London commuters may have their own ideas on this one, but for a unique experience try the isolated Albanian system. It is now much improved, but past problems with the theft of scats, and even bits of track, have given this system more than its fair share of problems.

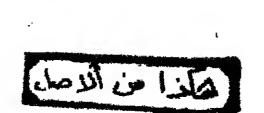
Longest run The celebrated sevenday trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway is detailed in the Thomas Cook Overseas Timetable. Less well known is a train which, in the European Timetable, merits a table to itself, subtitled "the

most nutlandish train in Europe". Running on Saturday, from Berlin, the various portions of this unnamed Irain reach beyond Europe to such diverse places as Saratov. Aqmola (Kazakhstan), Rostov and Novosibirsk, the latter of which is reached in the early hours of Thursday morning after a jour-

ney of some 5,654 kilometres. Shortest run The shuttle services between Orléans and Les Aubrais in France, and between Coimbra and Coimbra B (junction) in Portugal botb officially traverse 2 km of line. No doubt the dedicated team at Thomas Cook will now be deluged with mail quoting metres or chains.

The Thomas Cook European Timetable (edited by Brendan Fox) costs £8.40 at branches and forcign exchange counters of Thomas Cook, or by post from Thomas Cook Publishing PO Box 227, Peterborough PE3 6PU.

Brendan Fox



wrich Opera House

#### Deal of the week

London Heathrow to Los Angeles International for £199 return, including all laxes, if you book with STA Travel (0171-361 6262) by close of business today and travel on specific Air New Zealand flights between April and June.

#### And the best of the rest

Chalet operator Meriski is offering a special deal on one-week holidays in the French reson of Méribel, departing on 15 March. Prices are from £549 to £675 per person, based on two people sharing a twin or double room with en-suite bathroom, and include British Midland flights from Heathrow to Geneva. Call 01451 844788 for more information

Celebrate Easter with a difference by dropping in on the hirthplace of Pontius Pilate - in Perthshire. so they say. Natural history enthusiasts can explore Scotland's hills and lochs from 10-13 April for £299 including accommodation, meals and guide and visit Fortingall - arguably the place of the Roman governor's birth. Call Naturetrek on 01962 733051.

Wildlife Worldwide has spaces on a two-week night-and-day Kalahari Safari, departing 7 and 21 March. The cost is £2.995 for flights, tented camp accommodation, meals and guide. For details, call

Weekend breaks in The Gambia are now feasible. thanks to an extra charter flight from Gatwick. The Gamhia Experience (01703 730888) ie offering four nights at the Kairaba Beach hotel for £359, departing 6 or 27 March,

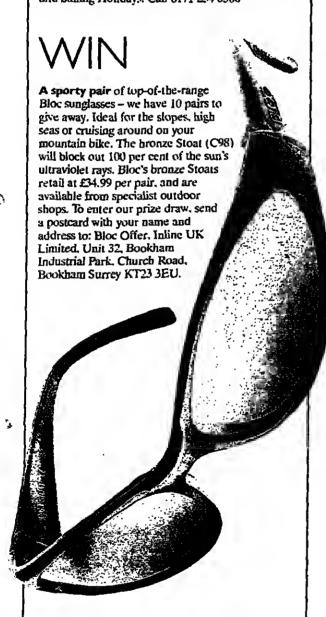
Walk in the Himalayas with Sherpa Expeditions. The tour departs on 11 March and costs £695 (excluding flights), Call 0181 577 2717

Spring? Romance? Take off to Venice with Lakes and Mountains Holidays, departing 10 April from Gatwick. Prices start at £367 per person for two nights in a three-star hotel in the centre of the city. Call 01329 844 405.

Four-day trip to D-Day Normandy Beaches departing 12 March, from £119 per person. including excursion to Bayeux, Travel by coach, Call Leger, 01709 839839.

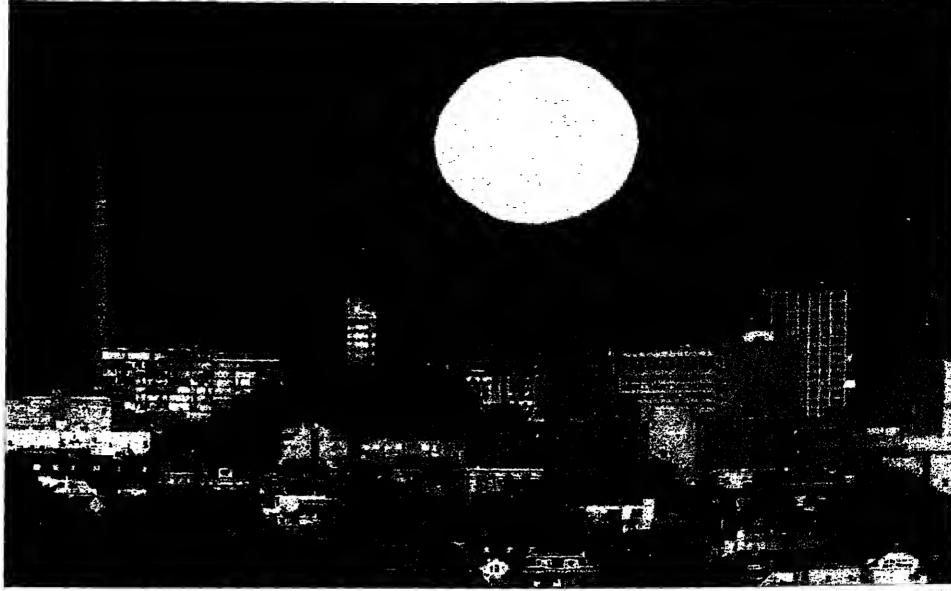
Short break to Florence's four-star Hotel Rivoli, departing 6 March, £336 per person for three luxurious nights, plus return flights. Call Citalia, 0181-686 5533.

April cruises around the Greek islands from £489 per person for seven nights, with Seafarer Cruising and Sailing Holidays. Call 0171 234 0500



Read it. Explore the globe from your armchair with the newly reprinted Illustrated, published under the aegis of the Royal Geographical Society. The weighty tome (Scriptum Editions, price £45) takes you on a historical adventure via the photographer's lens. It's a heautiful book, capturing moments such as Scott finding Amundsen's empty tent at the South Pole, and Tenzing Norgay photographing Hillary on the peak of Everest.





San Francisco nights: Californian cities are now more accessible from Britain than ever before

Photograph: Frederic Larson/AP

# Stay in a film...

If you're going to San Francisco you may as well experience a little fantasy. Don't choose a big, anonymous hotel, advises Richard Gilbert - go to Hollywood

Two bours after arriving in San Francisco I was in the bar of the Hotel Rex. blearily watching my dollar hills being toru up and then reassembled by a ma-

This was an appropriately quirky introduction to the Rex and to Joie de Vivre, the unusual hotel group that owns it. "Most hotels are in the business of just selling sleep - I'm in the unlikely words from a hotel tycoon. But Chip Conley, the 37-year-old president of Joie de Vivre, is not in the mould of the corporate suits who run the Hiltons and Marriotts across the US. His group has 13 small hotels in San Francisco, most of them themed and all unorthodox. Their total capacity of 800 rooms could easily fit into a single one of the city's big hotels such as the Hyatt Regency, and they are much cheaper.

I chose the Rex on Sutter Street because it is the only hotel I know which is built around an antiquarian bookshop. It is the nearest the West Coast gets to the Algonquin, with authors' readings, book signings, literary discussions and a decor that evokes pre-war San Francisco anists on the walls. Even the lifts play a part - they are papered with pages from the San Francisco Social Register of the period.

Conley opened his first hotel when be was only 26. While working in real estate, he met the rock promoter Bill Graham and heard rock groups and comedians regularly complain that San Francisco hotels were too stuffy and expensive. He raised \$1m, took over a run-down flophouse on the edge of the seedy Tenderloin district, and opened the Phoenix. It quickly became a hit, and rock and film celebrities poured in - Bowie, Baez, Dunaway, Ronstadt, kd lang. Despite some "Tour Manager Suites" among the 40 rooms. prices are reasonable.

Since then, Conley has opened a dozen more boutique hotels in a city usually associated with grand hotels such as Mark Hopkins and Sir Francis Drake. Strangely, the wide range business of selling dreams": those are of flourishing magazines on American newsstands was the original model for Conley's niche botels. He was convinced that consumer magazines had a strong and distinctive customer base that was missing in the hotel business. Before developing a new hotel, be imagines a magazine that belps to define its style and decor, so the Phoenix white stills of Katharine Hepburn and its retro décor and velvet curtains, is the Saturday Evening Post.

I checked into the Bijou, a filmthemed hotel on Mason Street, which I assumed would be identified with Vanery, or the movie magazine Entertainment Weekly. All 65 rooms are named after a film shot in or featur-Who's Coming To Dinner?, where the Twenties salons, with the work of walls are decorated with black-and- but who needs that when you get The attraction in the city, with directions



is Rolling Stone, and the Maxwell, with Spencer Tracy. Down the corridor were Bullitt, Jagged Edge, Invasion of the Body Snatchers and The Conversation. The lobby is designed like a cinema box office, complete with popcora and Tootsie Rolls. The Bijou is the only botel I have found that has a free private cinema for guests. Every evening it shows two San Francisco-linked ing San Francisco. I stayed in Guess films in a mini-cinema. You don't get valet parking or 24-hour room service.

Maltese Falcon and Escape from Alcamuz free?

Most of the Joie de Vivre hotels are central. The Commodore on Sutter Street is targeted at visitors who want to discover the hidden treasures of San Francisco. Too many tourists arrive in the city, take a cable car to Fisherman's Wharf and then wonder why San Francisco has such a high reputation. Every room in the Commodore has a framed description of an unfamiliar

how to find it. Nob Hill Lambourne, on the edge of the financial district, is a favourite hotel among the wired generation and competitive young executives (Byte? Business Weekly? Fitness Magazine?). All 20 rooms have a laptop computer, a fax, a VCR and an exercise machine. It is so health-conscious that the mini-bar is stuffed with rice cakes, vegetarian chilli and organic wine. There's no chance of mint chocolates on your pillow at "hundown" time. Instead, you get beta-carotene vitamin pills wrapped inside a motto like an upmarket fortune-cookie: "Dreaming permits us to be quietly and safely in-

Chip Conley takes his maverick philosophy on niche hotels seriously, but at least he laughs at his own jargon, which he blames on a Stanford Business School background. He argues that the big hotel chains are still driven by superficial demographics, while Joie de Vivre relies on "psycholographics". He is in no burry to open up hotels in other cities. "Someone offered me a site in

Houston the other day. Why would I want to go to Houston twice a month? I am only interested in cities that I like."

Yet in the summer Joie de Vivre is moving into a new area by opening California's first "boutique camp site" on the coast, an hour away from San Francisco. Conley claims that "It will have everything visitors like about camping without any of the stuff that keeps you from doing it." Sounds as if he has been reading Field and Stream.

For more information about Joie de Vivre hotels in San Francisco, call 001 415 835 0300 or in the US, 800 738 7477. Website: www.joiedevivre-sf.com

## Business-class banquet or bargain basement

Air fares to California are so low, says Simon Calder, that it could be time to trade up

You work 22 hours and what do you get? A flight to California and back. Read this sentence carefully: if you are lncky enough to earn the average British wage of £368 a week, then you can earn the money for a round trip to California and back in less than the time you will spend in flight.

Air New Zealand is so concerned to fill the seats on its new flight from Heathrow to Los Angeles that it has cut the economy fare to below £200, at least through some discount travel agents. See Deal of the Week, above left.

Some sophisticated travellers are taking advantage of the absurd prices to trade up. Discounted economy tickets are dragging down premium fares: if you're going to San Francisco, then "upper class" on Virgin Atlantic can be bought through agents for £3,047 return instead of the £4,584 regular fare - as long as you ask for a flight on Conductal Airlines.

It works like this. Earlier this mouth. Virgin Atlantic teamed up with Continental for a "codeshare"

arrangement - increasingly common in the murky world of aviation. Each airline has an allocation of seats on the other's transatlantic routes. So Virgin's daily departure from Heathrow to San Francisco has two flight numbers: VS19 for Virgin, CO8419 for Continental. You sit in the same seat, sipping the same champagne as other "upper class" passengers, but because your ticket is issued by Continental not Virgin you save more than £1,500 on the deal.

Although US and UK airlines are doing what they can to protect businessclass and first-class revenue on their most profitable routes, carriers from other parts of the world are taking advantage of "fifth-freedom" rights to offer excellent premium-class fares across the Atlantic.

"Fifth-freedom" means an airline is allowed to fly between two points, neither of which is in its country of origin - Air India between Manchester and Rome, for instance. Because most passengers use a carrier based in either their own or their destination country, smaller players have to reduce fares.

Air New Zealand, the airline responsible for cutting to the bone economy fares from west London to the Pacific Coast, has an excellent businessclass product. Taking the comfortable way to California will cost you more than 10 times as much as the lowest economy fare, but at £2,081 return (through

discount agents) you could take a partner in business class and pack a couple of pals into economy for less than BA's Club World fare.

If you're prepared to change planes en route, the fare falls still further. TWA flies daily from Gatwick to its bome base in St Louis, with onward connections to San Francisco and Los Angeles, for £1,845 return through Trailfinders. Airline Network has a deal from London, Birmingham or Manchester to San Francisco via Paris

for £2,115 return. Continental (the real thing, not Virgin Atlantic in disguise) is rapidly becoming a key player in the regions. It flies from Birmingham and Manchester, via its hub at Newark, to either San Francisco or Los Angeles for £2,946 (through Quest Worldwide); from July it

will also fly from Glasgow. Quest Worldwide also has one of the lowest-ever business-class transatiantic fares to the other coast: Heathrow to New York on Kuwait Airways for £650 return. The catch, for those who regard good-quality alcohol as a perk of business-class travel, is that Kuwait Airways is a dry airline.

Many discount travel agents offer cheap business-class fares. Those mentioned here are Airline Network (0500 747757); Quest Worldwide (0181-546 6000); Trailfinders (0171-937 5400).



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# Looking for a New England

Check into a small town in Vermont where you can enjoy real life as well as the winter wonderland of ski slopes, writes Cathy Packe

I stayed in a nice B&B in Manchester the other week. It was quite near the centre of town, handy for the shops. Titanic was on at the cinema down the road. And it hardly took any time at all to get to the ski slopes.

Well, no. it wasn't Manchester, England. It was Manchester New England. Not the industrial one in New Hampshire, whose frozen wastes feature on our TV screens once every four years, when the presidential primaries are in town. This was Manchester, Vermont, a pleasant town with a population of fewer than 5,000 people. whose streets are lined with elegantly proportioned 19th-century bouses, many of them set in their own parkland.

The most historic part of town was originally a mill town called Factory Point. The hlue-collar workers lived here, while Manchester Village, at the other end of the street, was the more attractive part of town. Towards the end of the last century the industries declined, and another source of income was needed. Tourism was developing up the road in the Village, and in order to cash in on the benefits, Factory Point changed its name to Manchester Center. Many of the buildings along Main Street still have a commercial use, but instead of housing the electrical store or the barber's shop, they are more likely to have a sign up advertising Ben and Jerry's ice-cream.

A good reason for hasing a ski holiday in Manchester is that there are no mountains. Skiing is one of the activities you can choose to indulge in while you are there, because there are several resorts nearby. This is not a winter wonderland, like many of the chi-chi resorts of the Rockies, whose sole reason for existing is the tourist industry, and whose holiday-makers are there to be seen. In Manchester, anyone who doesn't ski, or who wants a ski-free day, can relax without feeling out of place.

This makes it feel quite different from established Vermont resorts like Stowe in the north of the state; indeed, a two-centre trip including both areas would be quite are trails that take you from the top of the possible in travel-friendly New England, and also enable you to call in at the adjacent resorts beginners are forced to stay at the

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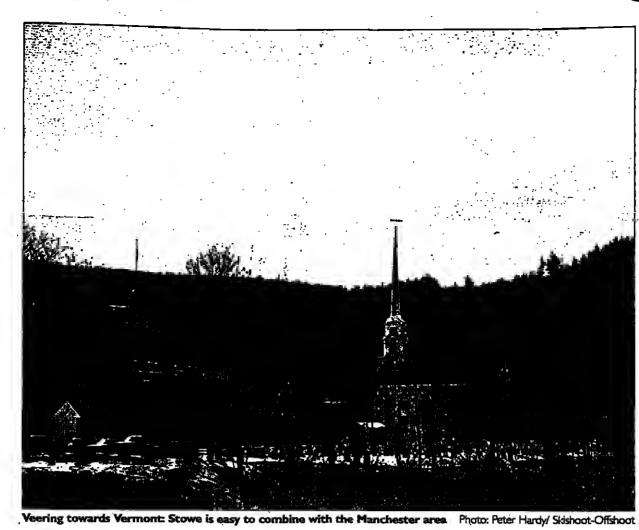
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Trapp family home. You need a car in order to take full advantage of the slopes in Vermont, but the roads are kept clear of snow, there are no major highways to negotiate, and parking in the resorts is free.

The nearest ski areas to Manchester are Bromley, Vermont's Sun Mountain (socalled because when other resorts are grey and freezing its slopes are still likely to be be bathed in sunlight), and Stratton - larger and often colder, but more challenging, with a greater variety of black diamond and double diamond runs, Both of these are about 15 miles from Manchester. Beyond Bromley is Magic Mountain, and farthest away, but still only a 45-minute drive, is Okemo, just outside the town of Ludlow.

The beauty of all these resorts is that no matter how limited your ability to ski, there mountain right down to the base. In many

lower altitudes, without ever seeing the view a week-long package in the same place. from the top, or enjoying the exhilarating feeling of a long run. And an advantage of day-trip skiing is that if you want a day off, or you want to ski somewhere else, perhaps because the weather is better in another resort, you are not committed to

#### **SKI TIP**

When using the new types of shaped, or carving, skis, start by feeling your outside big toe as you tilt the ski on to its edge. As your speed increases, feel your inside ankle bone, then move your thigh inwards for more

Chris Exall

MANCHESTER Money upfront: Cathy Packe paid £180,

MAKING FOR

including tax, to fly from Garwick to Newark on Virgin Atlanda (01293 747747).

Package deal: a three-day package, including accommodation and lift passes, at The Inn at Manchester (001 802 362 1793). cost her £190.

Net work: Details of all the resorts mentioned can be found on the Internet the addresses are www.[resort name].com



#### Snow in the USA

EAST COAST

Stratton and Okemo (but not, sadly,

Bromley) have a reciprocal agreement, so

that the same pass can be used in both re-

sorts. It is usually possible to get a pass that

is valid for several days, making the daily

cost cheaper, and it works out cheaper still

if you book a deal through the Vermont

tourist office for accommodation and ski

within weekend distance for the townies of

to get packed on Saturdays and Sundays.

But during the week it can be extremely qui-

et, which means it is possible to combine

five peaceful days skiing with a weekend

in the city at either end of your holiday.

Yet Manchester is not the place to stay

if what you want in a ski holiday is some

These Green Mountain resorts are

New York and Boston, so the slopes tend house hotels.

kind of ski-in-ski-out accommodation. All make you understand why anyone would

the resorts have a full range of hotels, motels want to shop till they drop. Ralph Lauren,

pages

5, 7, 8 & 9.

pass combined.

Killington Lower slopes 75cm, upper slopes 185cm. All pistes open. Heavy. Mount Snow Lower 75cm, upper 110cm. 125 runs open. Good. Sunday River Lower 75cm, upper 155cm. 120/126 runs open. Good. **COLORADO** 

Aspen Lower 140cm, upper145cm. Vail Lower 148cm, upper 160cm. All runs open.

too, hut with a more down-home kind of

feel, and with the added attraction of the

normal things you find in a town, such as

shops and cinemas, Much of the accom-

modation is bed and hreakfast - usually in

inns that are the equivalent of our country

sort and spend the whole time shopping,

but it would be perverse, too. to go to the

States and not shop at all. Manchester is

the Vermont centre for the outlet stores,

smallish shops devoted to one designer or

another, with the kind of discounts that

It would be a shame to go to a ski re-

Breckenridge Lower slopes 140cm, upper slopes 150cm. All runs open. 18cm new snow.

CALIFORNIA Mammoth Lower 510cm, upper

630cm. Snow:. Heavenly Lower 285cm, upper 465cm. All runs open

Information supplied by the Ski Club of Great Britain 0181-410 2000.

Donna Karan and Calvin Klein stand side

and slope-side condominiums, hut one of by side with more moderately priced labels the drawbacks, particularly in a small, pursuch as J Crew and Jones New York. At the pose-built resort, is that, at the end of the moment, in most stores the already low day, it is just a ski resort. The après-ski may prices are reduced even farther because the be lively, but it will be entirely predictable. sales are on. Manchester has bars and restaurants,

Several buildings in and around Manchester have some connection with the area's most famous son, Norman Rockwell. a native of nearby Arlington. There is a museum there in his honour, and there are various places in Manchester where he apparently painted some of his most famous pictures. But this week, the people of southern Vermont have been concentrating on the achievements of other local heroes.

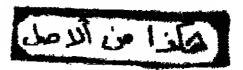
They keenly followed the winter Olympics, because three snowboarders from Stratton were in the running for medals. Vermont may be a long way from Nagano, but Japan's winter Olympics could help to put this area on the map.

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To Patrice

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INDEPENDENT

# Winning moments

Composition, light, mood – what makes a great picture? Simon Calder finds out

Travel photography can cause nearly as many heated arguments as Middle East peace negotiations or at least when the judges of the The Independent/Wanderlust magazine/Nikon Travel Photograph of the Year Competition are picking the winners. We attracted more entries from amateur photographers than ever before, many of them of outstanding.

The competition embraced four categories: the Natural World, Action, Face-to-Face and Black & White. Whittling down the thousands of images to 10 finalists in each category was a week's work for Geoffrey Roy, Wanderlust's professional photographer. We then convened in Windsor for the day to judge the eventual winners.

In the Natural World category. we felt that Tony Ord's feeling for snow, light and composition caught this family of emperor penguins perfectly - and shows the photographic rewards you can expect if you travel to the Larsen

Ice Shelf of Antarctica in November. Shirley Bell's Action shot of buffalo-racing on the island of

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Sumbawa in Indonesia (shown on the cover of this week's Time Off) tells more in an instant than moving pictures ever could. The winner of the Black & White category, Giles Angel, made the most of a moment in the souk in Marrakesh; "For a brief moment a gap appeared, and a boy came cycling towards me."

The visages beaming from Michael Ford's image of the Trans-Aral train in Uzbekistan won him both the Face-to-Face category and the overall prize. "My fellow travellers had just done a bit of DIY air-conditioning by removing the window. As they leaned out, I clicked."

At the awards ceremony at Destinations '98 in Olympia, London, yesterday, the three category winners each received a Nikon F50 with 35-80mm lens, plus a Billingham Photo Hadley bag.

Mr Ford was presented by Nikon with an F70 SLR with 24-120mm AF-D lens, worth at least £1,000, while Bellingham gave him a 335 camera bag and Ventile photo vest (total value £300 plus). Plus one prize money can't buy: a photographic commission from The Independent.









In the picture: winning photographs from the Independent/WanderlustNik on competition - top left, Michael Ford's overall winning shot of Trans-Aral Express, Uzbekistan; above, winner of the Black and White category, Marrakesh souk by Giles Angel; left, Natural World winner, Larsen Ice Shelf, Antarctica by Tony Ord; far left, runner up of the Face to Face category, portrait of Bur Safaga by Chris Christoforou

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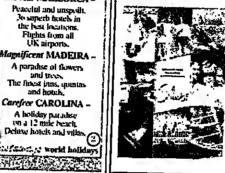
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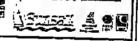
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# 48 hours in Tallinn

For a weekend break, visit the capital of Estonia before it is ruined by success, writes Gordon Sander

Why go now?

Because of the opportunity to witness an economic miracle in the making. Of all the former Soviet republics, little Estonia (population 1.5 million) has been the quickest adapt to capitalistic ways, a distinction that was confirmed this summer when the European Union officially invited it to join negotiations for membership, while pointedly ignoring the other two Baltic republics, Latvia and Lithuania. And because this may be your last chance to see this extraordinarily well preserved old city before it drowns in neon and

A city-break package to Tallinn costs less than a flight-only. Using Estonian Air from Gatwick to Tallinn, Regent Holidays (0117-921 1711) have a package for £199, including three nights in a hotel: the lowest airfare is around £240. Alternatively, find a flight to Helsinki and take a boat from there: Tailinn is a favourite ferry foray for Finns.

The basic Regent Holidays package puts you up in the Dzingel, a oew three-star hotel two

miles from the city centre. A more upmarket option is the Palace, on the edge of the old city (Vabaduse valjak 3: 00 372-6-407-300); doubles here are £130 a night. Or try the four-star Olympia (Liivalaia 33, 00 372 6 315 315), a 10-minute walk from the old city. This 26storey ex-Intourist highrise offers all the amenities, including sauna and pool; doubles are £100.

The Rataskaevu Hotel (Rataskaevu 7: 00 372 2 441939), a friendly, well-preserved old hotel located in the middle of the old city, is a great mid-range buy, doubles £50, double deluxe £60.

Get your hearings

The hest way to cover the short distance from the airport to the old city is by taxi. Be on guard for rip-offs; a licensed cab should charge you

The name Tallinn dates from the 13th century, when the much-fought-over city was in Danish and gloves can be found at stalls in the flower Sunday morning: go to church town"). It is a compact city, comprising essentially the attractive old town and the still drab, Soviel-tinged industrial and residential surroundings.

Weekenders will almost certainly wish to stick to the old town. This remarkable precinct is di- of Vana Viru, a craft shop with a munificent "art vided into two parts: Toompea, the hill which dominates the city, and the Lower Town - which is

where you will probably be staying. This is centred on Rackoja plats - Town Hall Square - and is still surrounded by most of its 2.5-km medieval wall. Make your way to the excellent new tourist office (00 372 6313 940) on the square.

Take a hike

The best way of exploring old Tallinn is via the twin towers of the Viru Gate, in the east side of the Lower Town walls. From bere amble along Viru to the corner of Vene; continue on to Raekoja plats. From here, climb Pikmk jalg (yes, it really is spelt that way), which is lined with the bouses of medieval Hanseatic merchants and gentry, up to the heights of Toompea. Use the look-out points off Toom-Kooli, Kohtu, and Rahukobtu to regain your bearings and decide where you

Long lunch

Now that you bave zoomed around medieval Tallinn, slow down and enjoy a home-cooked meal at Vanaema Juures (Rataskaevu 10/12: 00 372 6313 928), which literally means "Grandma's place". The food is fresh - and delicious. Try the kana and pannkook (chicken and pancake).

> Cultural afternoon Thus fortified, check ont the clay pipes, zithers, and other historical memorabilia from Estonia's furrowed past at the City Museum at Vene 17 (00 372 441 829).

Next, saunter across the

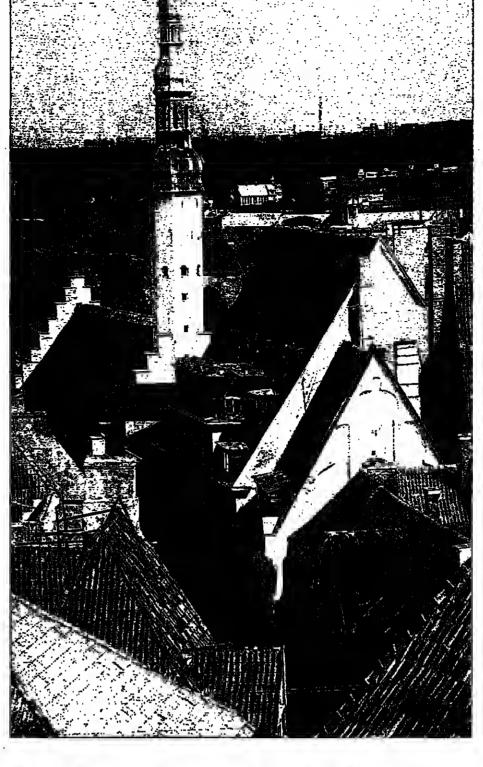
street, and back through several centuries to the Dominiiklaste klooster, or Dominican monastery, at Vene 16. The ancient monastery, founded in 1246, was beadquarters for the Scandinavian monks who converted heathen Estonia to Christianity. At one time the monastery had its own hrewery and hospital; however, it was ruined by plunder during the Re-

formation and razed by a fire in 1521. Today it houses Estonia's largest collection of stone carvings - and, I swear, a battalion of ghosts.

Window shopping

All sizes and styles of traditional jumpers, hats, as along Muurivahe, where the market runs along the city walls. A knitted jumper, the most popular buy for foreigners, costs about £20. Other suggested stops: Galerii Molen, on the corner garage" in the hasement and Helina Tilk, on

Voorimehe puestee, a porcelain emporium.



Sit down for some hlini and bear or one of the other substantive native dishes at Eesti-Tall (Dunkri 4/6; 00 372 6313 755), a carefully restored, two-floor restaurant-in a converted stable.

Unlikely, but true: Tallian boasts the largest discotheque in all of Baltica and Scandinavia, called Dekoltee (Ahrti 10). Among other things this gargantuan, 3,200-square-metre dance house, sited in a former Soviet electronics goods factory, features a huge, oval dance floor; three long bars staffed by cheery, luminous-dressed young Estonians; and a state-of-the-art laser show. Admission is all of 80 crowns, roughly £5.

hands (Taani linn is Estonian for "Danish market close to the Viru gates on Viru, as well A minute's walk from the old square, Niguliste Church was originally the huh of Tallinn's 13thcentury settlement. The early Gothic north doorway dates from the church's first construction; the rest goes back only to the 15th, making the building a virtual newcomer for this venerable city. At the foot of the slope on which Niguliste stands is what appears to be a demolition site. In fact

it's the deliberately preserved remains of the buildings that stood there prior to Soviet bombing of Nazi-occupied Tallinn in 1944 - another reminder of Tallinn's tragic and bellicose past,

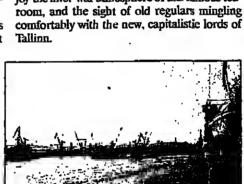
Splurge out on the immense, smorgasbord-like hrunch offered at the Elysee (Lilvalaia 33: 00 372 6315-315), the elegant restaurant of the Olympia Hotel. The spread, which cost 275 EEK (£13), includes krevetisalat (shrimp salad), lihavalik (plate of hams) and sokolaadijaatis (chocolate ice-cream), not to mention the sight of little Estonian tots, dressed up in their Sunday best, bouncing around to live accordion mn-

Lastly, trot over to the famed Maiasmokk Kohvik, or Sweet-Tooth Café, at Pikk 16. You prohahly won't have space for any of the elegant pastries after the above repast, but you will enjoy the inter-war atmosphere of this famous tearoom, and the sight of old regulars mingling comfortably with the new, capitalistic lords of



**Bracing brunch** 

Icing on the cake





#### SIMON CALDER

Does this sound like your most recent holiday? A 2am arrival at a military airfield that's been pressed into service as a charter airport; a reckless ride on a hattered bus to some God-forsaken halfbuilt botel, where a distorted disco is in full swing until dawn. The beach is accessible only by negotiating a flight of steps that would give a goat vertigo, and by picking your way across an eight-lane highway to a shabby stretch of sand that resembles a builders' yard. In 1988, possibly; in

1998, unlikely. While Britain's mass market travel industry is characterised by economists as "mature", its behaviour is often plain immature. Original thinking is a rare

commodity; when someone

has a good idea, everyone tends to follow. The current fad is for telling the truth. Now, most industries learned long ago that honesty is the best strategy; but the package tour husiness is hehaving as though a bolt of enlightenment has just struck Britaio's high-street travel agents, illuminating them in a glow of veracity.

Thomson, the UK's higgest tour operator, began the trend with its "telling it like it is" promise. This summer's hrochures include the scores awarded to each location by boliday-makers who went there last summer. Take care when you're completing that inevitable questionnaire on the flight home: your comments will be used to rate each property for quality of accommodation, location and catering. Leafing through the hrochures, you pick up pretty quickly the idea that the more expensive the holiday, the higher the

Now Co-op Travelcare has gone what it claims is one better by promising customers access to what is said to he the "truth hook": the OAG Agents'

All industries, whether second-hand cars or national newspapers, have their reference books. The Agents' Gazetteer is the one for the mass-market package holiday. It contains frank appraisals of mainstream holiday resorts, plus their botels and apartment blocks.

Most travel agents carry the book, but hitherto have rarely shared its contents with customers. Not surprisingly, they prefer to rely for on brochures complete with ultra-hlue skies and swimming-pools to sell.

The Co-op seems to be saying that this amounts to concealment of an important consumer resource, and promises to bring it out from under the counter. Yet having waded through a publication that has the bulk and interest value of the collected London telephone directories, I'm not convinced.

To test the extent to which the Agents' Gazeneer dishes the dirt on resorts and accommodation, I checked out the descriptions for my last couple of package holidays in Spain. In these two cases the so-called "truth book" is benign, even when compared with the operators' brochures.

The current Skytours brocbure describes the Las Piramides complex in Playa de las Americas. Tenerife, as "No-frills accommodation with a variety of excellent funfilled activities on site. The main beach is a 15-minute walk away."

So long as you accept the view that playing table football and drinking copiously comprise "excellent fun-filled activities" (which most of my fellow guests seemed to), this strikes me as uncootentious. The Gazetteer concurs: "Surrounded by bars and supermarkets. Intended to look like a pyramid hut not impressive. Plenty of amenities for families and younger people."

On the second test boliday, the Eva Mar apartmeots in Benidorm. I'd say the Gazetteer was rather too kind. "A pleasant 24-storey brick block, huilt 1987. Attractive open-plan layout though somewhat run down."

In my book, the words "pleasant" and "24-storey hrick block, huilt 1987" are mutually incompatible, even when placed in the context of Benidorm. The Club Freestyle brochure takes a different tack: "If you're looking for a quiet night you've come to the wrong placel The Eva Mar is only 10 minutes' walk from the main centre of Benidorm and there are loads of restaurants, bars and shops nearby."

It's taken three decades and reams of new legislation, but holiday companies now have a strong incentive to tell the truth in brochures.

Anything that gives the consumer more ammunition in the battle to find a good-value boliday is to be commended, hut I suspect that the Co-op's move comes about 10 years

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Tallinn old and new: Estonia's capital is a compact city - a medieval maze surrounded by a Soviet-style urban landscape Photographs: Robert Harding/ Simon Calder







# My private jet to Varna

It was the ultimate solo flight and ego trip: lan Russell was the only passenger on a scheduled flight to Bulgaria

was no check-in desk at Edinburgh airport for AirVia flight VIM 624 to Varna. Yet the early morning flight was listed on the departures screen, so at least my charter trip to Bulgaria's Black Sea coast wasn't a complete mystery to everyone. But why wasn't the usual motley quene snaking its way forward with just one thought to head for the duty-free as soon as they had got rid of their cases?

There were long queues for flights to Jersey and Brussels, but as I squinted in vain at luggage labels on suitcases strewn around the busy terminal, it slowly dawned on me that maybe there was no one else flying to the city of Varna.

The Servisair representative confirmed my suspicions. "Varna? Oh, there's only one passenger, 1 think." "Er, hut that happens to be me." "Right, just wait until we clear these other flights and we'll

get your case." Half an hour later I got the call, a shout really, across the

to me straightaway. There area to step forward with my happen very often." baggage and be officially confirmed as the solitary soul

boarding flight VIM 624. The young girl bebind the counter had more of a sense of humour than ber colleague: "Smoking or nonsmokiog?" she asked drily. Upstairs in the departures

lounge, my scheduled departure time drew ever closer. There had been no announcement, but the flight was shown oo the screen. Five minutes before the 157-seater jet was due to take off I decided it was time to start asking questions. But just as I rose from my seat a man with a mobile phone burst in and loudly requested the passenger for the Varna flight to make himself known, I was speedily ushered through an exit door by my escort who, 20 yards down the corridor, passed me on to someone

mode. I was hurried downstairs and out of the building "There's just you," said returning bome.

else, also in mobile-phone

It should have been obvious now almost deserted check-in my mioder. "This doesn't It felt more wonderful

than weird to be the only one climbiog the steps to the big white, purple and green machine waiting to whisk me (plus five cabin crew and three flight crew) to eastern Europe. The smiling head of cahin crew greeted me with typical Bulgarian humour: "Hello, and welcome to your own private jet, sir."

Being the solo passenger for the following four hours proved to he a rewarding experience, with the cahin crew all anxious to improve their English. They explained that this was their last flight of the season; normally they'd return home with an empty aircraft. Because I was heading for Varna on a one-way ticket it was convenient for the airline to accommodate me - as long I found another route home.

I did, a week later, from an airport farther down the coast. Alas, this time I was just into a waiting Transit minibus. one of a horde of Scots

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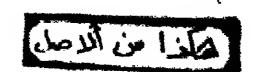


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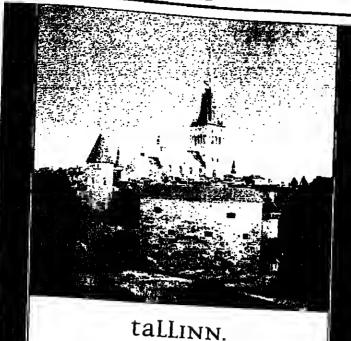
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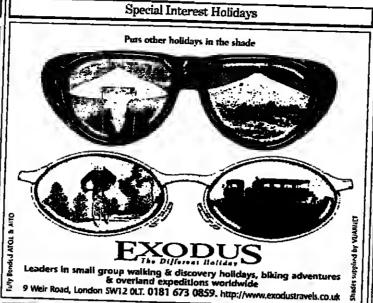
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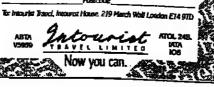
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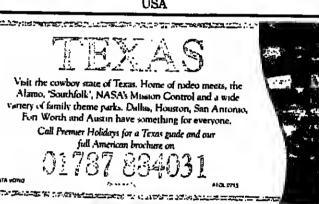
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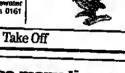
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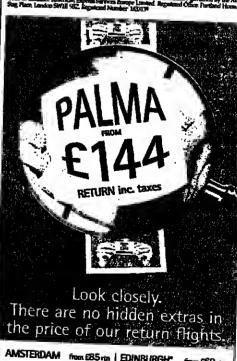


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# In the land of orchids

A day trip to a tropical rainforest? It's easy if you go to Kew, as Harriet O'Brien found out when she talked to the Palmer family

fun: the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew present a satisfying package. The fact that this is a place of important scientific research and conservation (with a staggering collection of more than 40,000 different living plants't is part of the pleasure of coming here.

There's no need for Kew to pander to its visitors with Millennium Dome-like theme park elements - the trees, plants and hot houses are in themselves spectacular and intriguing.

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The only problem is where to start. Even when there isn't much in leaf or bloom outside, there's an enormous variety of life to see indoors, much of which will have particular appeal to children; the Evolution House, showing the story of plant development over 3,500 million years; the Princess of Wales Conservatory, where 10 different climates are regulated, and where marine life can be seen in a number of aquaria; the Temperate House. crowds, everyone was very goodwith its teas and citrus trees; and, of course, the Palm House, dating space to wander around among the from 1844 - a magnificent arrangement of wrought fron and glass arching over a rich abundance of tropical vegetation and, on the lower floors, more fish and marine plants. In addition, Kew's Orchid Festival, showing at a variety of locations in the gardens, is on display until 29

A serious place, and seriously good her children Christopher, 10, Katherine, nine, and George, seven.

> Sally: Kew is very good value if you spend some time here - it's not a place just to dip into quickly. There's so much, you hardly know where to hegin. We wanted to look mainly at tropical plants because of school projects on rainforests, so we concentrated on the Princess of Wales Conservatory and the Palm House,

Quite apart from the plants, the architecture at Kew is stunning, especially the Palm House. It's such a fine example of great Victorian engineering - the walkway at the top, with its wonderful aerial views, is a particularly good feature. In fact, for me, the Palm House is a far more pleasurable huilding than the 1986 addition of the Princess of Wales Conservatory, however eleverly that has been designed to regulate numcrous different climates.

We came to Kew mid-week, which was perfect; there were no natured, and the children had ample plants. They came away with an overall impression - and enthusiasm rather than in-depth botanical knowledge. And on a cold, windy day. they certainly appreciated what a humid, tropical climate feels like.

George: It was levely coming here on a dreary day and going to the tropical places - you get really warmed up. And the food was very good at Sally Palmer, a social worker, took the Orangery restaurant.



I liked the Princess of Wales fascinating - some are spiky, some hairy, some flat, some thin, Some even just lie flat along the ground. We also spent some time looking at the fish ponds and tanks in this glasshouse - it was very colourful, I'd blue in some lights. like to come again.

Katherine: I liked the orchids in the Princess of Wales Conservatory - the whole place looked really pretty. And there was a display of hubbling mud there which was fun, I liked the fish, too - all you expect to see are plants and then you think, "Oh great, fish as well." They made it all seem much more real.

Conservatory best; the cacti there are are notices as well that teach you a hit, like what shape palms can be, I liked the cacti best - there were so many different kinds; some are tiny, some humungous. My favourite was one with white spikes that looked

> Christopher: The hest glasshouse for arrangements was the Princess of Wales Conservatory. There were so many beds of exotic plants - really

I hadn't realised there were such different shades of green. It was low. You can climb some spiral amazing to see so many varieties of steps to look at the big plants from trees, plants and flowers - furty. on top. There was a thin balcony runspiky, even plasticky. And the flowers ning around the big greenhouse Opening hours: daily 9.30am- the bigger shop at Victoria Gate.

I learnt a lot by looking, but there had such good colours: they really stood out. The fish were fine, but I didn't think they were the point of the garden. They blended in well with the background. The Palm House was very hig.

There were interesting containers for the plants, depending on size; flower pots, barrels, huge plastic pots. Some palms had red stalks, some were very. very tall, some tiny. The hig bamboos were really interesting - if it's hot they grow at least 1m every day. They had cut away a section on one bamboo so you could see inside. It was hol-



#### IN THE HOTHOUSE

visit include those in: Birmingham Botanic Gardens, Birmingham (0121-454 1860). Open 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 10am-Spm Sun. Adults £3.80, children

Plantasia, Swansea (09792 474555). Open Tues-Sun, from 10am to 5pm. Entrance: adults £1.70, children £1.

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh (0131-552 7171): open daily 9.30am-5pm, entrance is free. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire

(01565 654822). Tues-Sun, ttam-5pm (last admission 3pm).

steps, and it was fun looking down

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Wallington, Cambo, Morpeth, Northumberland (01670 774283). The house itself is currently closed but the grounds are open to the public from 10am to 4pm daily. The "season" starts in April, when entrance to the house and grounds costs £4.80 (£12 family ticket), grounds only, £2.80; children half price. National Trust members enter

and at the other end another set of 4.30pm. The glasshouses close before

0181-940 1171. Kew is a brilliant place to visit. I'd Admission: adults £5, concessions £3.50, children £2.50 (a variety of like to come back, especially in the summer - if it's a sunny day there'll Friends' membership or season tickbe wonderful flowers outside as et are also available)

the gardens; for exact times, call

Refreshments: two restaurants, the Orangery and the Pavilion, serve reasonably priced hot food and snacks. There is also a bakery near the Brent-The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond. Surrey (0181-332 5000) ford Gate and a coffee shop at the is a short walk from London's Kew Victoria Gate. Toilets: are well signposted and Underground station (for the Vic-

cater for those in wheelchairs. Shops: serious plant books as well as (non-kitsch) Kew mementos can be bought at the Orangery shop or

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# Birmingham waterfront wins well-deserved acclaim

Cared-for canals alleviate the surrounding architectural grief, says Simon Calder

Cyprus, watch out. According to Judith Chalmers on Wednesday evening, Birmingham's city-centre waterfront attracts even more visitors than the Mediterranean island's 2 million a year.

But on Thursday morning, a survey conducted from the Broad Street bridge suggested a level of touristic activity rather lower than Larnaca, Paphos and Limassol put together.

Only a churl, though, would deny the success of the regeneration that this week won the UK prize in British Airways' Tourism for Tomorrow swards. The chairman of the judging panel, David Bellamy, said: "The citycentre canal waterfront has been transformed from an underused derelict area to a thriving focus for recreation, leisure and tourism.

The centre-piece of the development, Brindley Place, is named after the 18th-century engineer who placed Birmingham at the hub of England's canal system. His work was amplified in the early 19th century by Thomas Telford. whose cast-iron footbridges still make an imprint amid the redevelopment.

He finished work on the project just as the railway revolution was getting under way, whereupon the canal system began a painfully extended decline.

To recognise the scale of the achievement, you need not look far beyond the Gas Street Basin for other examples of "underused, derelict areas".

As most of the world's great cities recognise, water is essential for flourishing urban life, Cared-for canals add significant light and space to Birmingham, moderating the architectural grief in which much of the city centre wallows.

A handsome city has been involved in a terrible road accident. the calamity being the construction of the most dehumanising road network of any British city centre.

You discover this when trying to find your way from New Street railway station to the Waterfront. Before the city was signed away lock, stock and Bull Ring - to the motor car, you could cover the halfmile in a sprightly 10 minutes.

Today's tourist must battle through a system of underpasses and barriers

that look as if they were designed by Escher in collaboration with Kafka.

The persecuted pedestrian's reward is more than just Brindley Place - a mock-warehouse in supermarket redbrick, whose main attraction for me is the Balti House.

The area includes the National Indoor Arena and the International Convention Centre, where, in May. the Eurovision Song Contest and the G8 Summit will be in unfamiliar proximity. (Cyprus can't boast that.)

On the other side of Broad Street, the canal splays out into a wedge of water, where more of the original brickwork has survived.

One last thing: the most frequently quoted "fact" about Birmingham is that it has more miles of canal - 32, to be precise - than Venice. Given the industrial history and sheer size of Birmingham, it would be surprising if the city of ring roads did not boast a higher number of artificial waterways than the city

But the view from the Bridge of Sighs is more heautiful than the Broad Street hridge; Venice has solved the car problem.

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# When the country was set alight

On Thursday evening 5,000 beacons blazed across Britain. Duff Hart-Davis fans the flames of dissent from a myriad bonfires

evening. What we got was low cloud and thick Scotch mist, driven in from the west by a blustering wind. So instead of being able to see over the Severn estuary and the Forest of Dean to the Black Mountains, we had a view of only two or three miles.

No matter. Few of the 5,000-odd sites that blazed up all over the country oo Thursday night can have been more spectacular than ours, on the western-Cotswold escarpment high over the Berkeley Vale.

Here, 3,500 years ago, Iron Age men built a fort to defend themselves against invaders from Wales, reinforcing the steep slopes with ramparts of earth which remain to this day. Here, in the early centuries of the Christian era, Romans made a race track along the rim of the hill, and local riders still gallop their horses round the grass circuit.

As dusk came on, and lights shone out in the plain, dark figures began to loom over the ramparts as people walked up from the village, 400ft below. Not least among them was the bearded Bodger White, who lives in a tent in nearby woods, and arrived bear-ing a placard that proclaimed his intention of continuing to defy the local council.

The combustible pyramid which we had created was - though I say it myself - a fine construction. Its heart was a balf-ton, rectangular bale of linseed straw, dried-out but still containing useful quantities of oil. On top of that was piled brushwood and several bundredweight of off-cuts from a joinery, plus a few old doors, the odd pallet, a superannuated gate and a gardeo table eateo to the bone by donkeys.

Next came the remains of the pier at Westonsuper-Mare - hefty, 9ft-by-3ft pine planks, well seasoned with red anti-fouling paint. Finally, in a teepee shape outside them, stood several dozen long, thin poles, all dead and well seasoned, dragged down out of the surrounding woods over the past few days.

The assembly of material had not proceeded without a hitch. The story of how the planks from Weston pier reached Uley Brewery must await another day. Suffice it to say that they had lain against the retaining wall of the yard for eight years, and wheo we moved them the wall collapsed, nearly killing one of our helpers. Next the brewery wagoo got stuck on the softest part of the Roman racecourse, and had oot Chas, its owner, driveo like Jehu, it would have been there for the night.

Waiting for the off, I thought of the other distinguished arsonists standing by to oorth and south:

All we wanted for our beacon bonfire was a clear the trainer David Nicholson at Jackdaw's Castle, his racing stables near Ford; Lord Vestey at Crickley Barrow, a prominent crossroads near Northleach, and Tracy, Marchioness of Worcester, at Hawkesbury Upton, near Badminton. Yet we had an igniter to match any of them - the novelist Joanna Trollope, as fair and slim as any fire-goddess of antiq-

Our given ignitioo time was 6.24pm. At 6.22 I lit most point of Uley Bury, a promoctory from the a brand - a strip of old towel soaked in diesel oil and nailed to the end of a pole. Precisely two minutes later, as rockets scorched into the sky behind ber, Joanna rammed it into the opening we had left in the windward side of the pile.

For a moment I waited breathlessly, dreading failure. Then flame seared up through the ceotre of the beap - and away it went. In seconds we had a blaze so violent that the storm of sparks whirling off downwind looked like the tail of the Hale-Bopp comet.

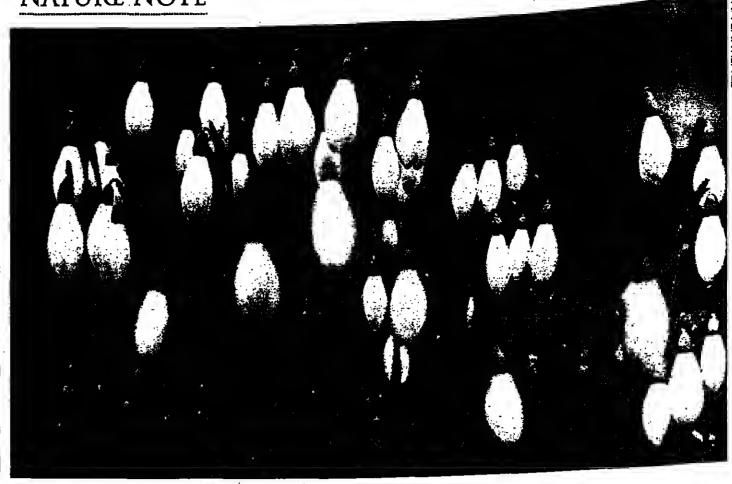
Shouts began going up as people spotted other beacons: a couple on the ridge across the valley, half a dozen down in the plain. Never mind that we couldn't see any in the far distance: the point about these close fires was that everybody could deduce whose they were. "That's Coombe's Grove!" someone cried. "That's Sheephouse. That's Heneage. That's the Lye."

Great was the general delight wheo we saw the flashing blue lamp of a fire-engine come speeding along the valley road, only to stop, turn and go back oo its tracks. We assumed that the crew had become confused by the multiplicity of potential targets.

Round our own roaring monster all was merriment. Chas the Brewer liberally dispensed pints of Uley ale from a nine-gallon barrel, and struck up the occasional ditty oo a squeeze-box. Roo and Margaret, from the village shop, handed oot sizzling hot dogs from their portable barbecue. Children rioted on the grass, and grown-ups gossiped happily, mesmerised by the ever-changing patterns of the fire.

Perhaps it was because the talk turned to woad, and the possibility of regenerating the plants which gave Ancieot Britons their hlue dye; perhaps it was because, with all these signal fires sending messages across the valley, we had suddenly reverted to an era of primitive communications. Whatever the reason, as I stood back from the throng I felt myself suddenly shudder with the feeling that the living were surrounded by phantom spectators from the distant past, hovering out there in the dark, and I moved back closer to the fire.





Look across any deep Cotswold valley at this time of year, into the wood than stone and mortar, the little on the far side, and your eye is like- plants have long outlived not only ly to be taken by a patch of white. showing up strongly among the their habitations too. These far-flung bare trees. That bed of snowdrops is oot merely beautiful - it is have survived because the plants repoignant, too, for it marks the site produce mostly by division of the of an old cottage of which all other

trace has vanished. More durable the bumans who planted them, but colonies are centuries old, and they

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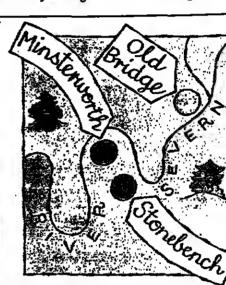
Some experts believe that snowdrops are native to Britain, others that they were introduced from warmer sites in continental Europe. Either way, they have long been seen by the Catholic Church as symbols of purity, and in particular as the emblem of Candlemas, the feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary. Their religious

significance has left many monastic

ruins surrounded by huge drifts. It is strange, but perhaps also comforting, to reflect that the very plants oow blooming will still be a transient glory of the spring wheo everyone who reads this newspaper

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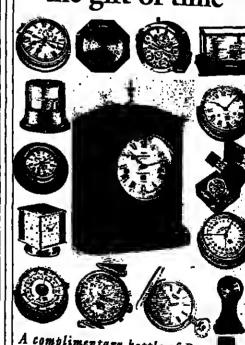
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GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS



# Kitchen gardeners lose the plot

Developers' un-green fingers are meddling with allotment holders' rights. reports Anna Pavord

One of the lesser known acts of Harold Wilson's government in the Sixties was to appoint a Committee of Inquiry into Allotments. Its findings became known as the Thorpe report - not the Liberal Thorpe, hut a professor of geography at Birmiogham University.

The committee made 44 major recommendations, none of which was acted on by Wilson's government -or any subsequent one. Just as well. "Each site." said the report sternly, "should be subjected to a programme of landscaping and improvement under the guidance of a landscape architect." And, "no tenant should be permitted to erect any form of structure oo his leisure garden without the prior approval of the planning authority and such approval must cover design, materials, size, colour and location."

Such faith in landscape architects! Such faith in planning authorities! And such evident terror of the anarchic free spirit that to many people is the whole point of being involved in allotments: the makeshift fences, the sheds run up from old doors and sheets of corrugated from the greenhouses tucked together with battens and latters of polythene. Scruffy, but resourceful.

Recycling is a moral imperative now - almost a religion. You don't go to church. You go to the bottle bank to get your weekly shot of uplift. But on allotments, recycling has been going on since they were invented. Pride here comes, not from boasting how much money you have spent, but in demonstrating how much you haven't. Alloiments are part of a self-help movement that, in more idealistic times, produced the co-operative societies, the trade unions and the WEA.

The allotment's finest hour came in the Second World War, when 1.75 million plots were cultivated uoder the banner of the "Dig for Victory" campaign. On these small patches, allotment holders raised a tenth of all the food produced in Britain during the war years.

Since that peak there has been an inexorable decline in the number of holdings: \$5,000 acres in 1960, 58,000 in 1970, 49,000 lo 1980. A major survey recently completed by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners shows that the present lev- carefully tilled plots with another giant superel marks a dramatic drop to 25,416 acres. The current obsession with health and fitness and the sort of food that we are putting to our stomachs has evideotly not manifested itself as a rush to allotment sites, to a grow-yourown culture. Simpler to buy organic vegetables scrubbed and wrapped at Waitrose, and resolve the health question with a jog round the park

Under the Smallholdings and Allotments Act of 1908, local councils have a statutory duty to provide allotments where there is a demonstrable demand for them. These statutory sites are supposed to have protection in law. If a council wants to turn an allotment site into a huilding site, which many of them do. they are supposed to get approval from



Patch work there are 7,796 allotment sites in England

لمكذا من ألاصل

The Government tried to lose this safeguard to the verbiage of the 1980 Local Govmains. Allotment sites, which at the beginning of the ceptury were perhaps on the fringes of cities, are now prime development sites. Once they have been turoed ioto cur parks, or slip roads or offices, they cannot return to the spade. The 68 residents of the Hazel Grove Allotmeots in Stockport have been fighting a long-running battle against the supermarket giant Tesco, which wants to cover their

Councils (or, in the Stockport case, Tesco)

the Secretary of State for the Environment. may offer alternative sites to allotment holders, but these are often farther away from where people live. To be used properly, alloternment Planning and Land Bill. Fortunately ments have to be handy. You should be able it was retrieved. But the central problem re- to get to the site in the evening after work almost as easily as you could stroll into your back garden. If you had one. These are the hack gardens of 300,000 gardeners, most of whom have oowhere else to grow things.

The recent survey shows that demand does oot necessarily equal supply. In Lancashire, where only 89 plots (2 per ceot) lie untilled, there are 899 hopefuls on council waiting lists. There's a mismatch io Northumberland, too, where just 94 (3 per cent) of the county's 3,428 plots are vacant, but 325 people want to garden. The figures show that the allotment trad-

ition is still much stronger in the north than in the south. Outer London has more plots to offer than any other area in the country. but 18 per cent of them lie idle.

Leslie Beresford, who grows all his own vegetables on his plot at the Palewell and East Sheen Allotments, points out that people don't keep their plots as long as they used to. He's had his for more than 50 years. In the Fifties, tenancies lasted for about 22 years. By the Seventies, teoure was down to 10 years. Now the average is two years. Tenacity and steadfastness are unfashionable virtues, but without them allotments would be dead. Dig oow, for victory against Tarmac and steel.

The National Allotment Survey Report is available, price £10, from the National Society of Allorment and Leisure Gardeners. O'Dell House, Hunters Road, Corby, Northants NN17 SJE (01536 266576).

Brian Donohoe, Labour MP for Cunninghame South (and secretary of the House of Commons gardening club) has instigated an ur into attornents by the Select Commi tee on the Environment. Among other issues, the committee will consider whether tougher legislation is needed to protect sites from development. If you have a view, make it known to Elizabeth Payne, Clerk of the Environment Sub-Committee, House of Commons, London

#### **CUTTINGS**

Lighten up Begonias and ferns are the

most successful indoor plants in our house, because they positively enjoy its chilly, rather dark rooms. Streptocarpus have been good, too, on a dim, north-facing windowsill. Away from windows, plants languish. But there are ways round the problem, which professional plantspeople have been using for some time. Inadequate light levels can be boosted with daylight lamps. such as the Bio-Light, which will run from a low-voltage 12yolt supply. It will provide enough of a boost for plants to grow in places where there is no natural light. It bas a clamp that fits on to most kinds of pot, and an adjustable arm. The only problem is that, highlighted in this way, your plants have to look their best: no hrown ends oo the spider plants, no greenfly on the asparagus fern. The Bio-Light costs £27.50 plus postage and packing, from Bio-Light UK. Unit 3, Springfield Road Industrial Estate, Chesham. Bucks HP5 1PW (01494 771541).

Seed time

The new seed list from Ray Brown, of Plantworld, Saint Marychurch Road, Newton Abbott, Devon TQ12 4SE, contains some mouthwatering aquilegias, more than 30 of them. A wise gardener once said that the secret of happy gardening was to find out what did well for you, and then to grow a lot of it. Aquilegias like our heavy, damp soil. The only problem lies in keeping the camed varieties true to form. They cross-breed with indeceot

Ray Brown recommends the new aquilegia "Sunhurst Ruby", with golden foliage and gamet-red flowers, but I'm oot drawn to that combination. The ordinary, hluish-grey colour of an aquilegia's leaves provides a much more sympathetic background to its flowers. I'm going for Aquilegia longissima, from the US, with finely divided leaves and loogspurred flowers in two shades of yellow, and "Iceberg", delicately perfumed with hig. pale blue flowers. For a copy of the catalogue (which includes good forgloves and

masses of violas) send three first-class stamps to Ray.

Ready for spring Nemesis is about to strike this column in the shape of Weekend Work, which returns next week. The garden, which seems to have shuffled through winter under its own steam, will soon turn into a much more demanding animal. Are you ready for it? Have you done everything you should have during January and February? Cut the old leaves away from chimps of Lenten hellebores, still in full bloom. Work your way through clumps of carex. Bowles's golden scage, cutting out the wizened fronds. Cut back battered fern fronds, so that the new ones can unfurl later in spring with maxi-

mum drama. Take the old flower-heads off climbing hydrangeas, and do the same for hig, shrubby hydrangeas such as H sargentiana and H villosa. Cut back dead stems of catmint before they become entangled with the new growth. Cut hack the Michaelmas daisies that you forgot to attend to last au-

If the soil is workable (there was a glorious patch in mid-February when it was), worry it about a hit. It looks at its worst now, heaten down by the wioter rain, hut a bit of chivvying with a hand fork perks it up oo end, and you can get rid of the weeds that flourished in the mild weather.

Although you do oot oeed to think of planting potatoes until April at the earliest, you have to lay hands on seed potatoes well before that and set them sprouting in some light, airy, frost-free place.

First earlies will produce a crop of roughly 50 pounds from six pounds of seed potatoes, main crops roughly 70 pounds from the same amount of seed. I have a weakness for the old varieties such as "Catriooa" and "Dunbar Standard", a main-crop potato with long, oval tubers and white

For a good selection of potatoes, including the "Pink Fir Apple" and the French "Belle de Fontenay", contact S E Marshall, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2RF (01945

#### ALLOTMENT LOTTERY

Together, they offer 296,923 plots and cover 25,416 acres. On average there is now just one plot for every 65 households, 15 for every 1,000. Allotmentlovers should move to County Durham, where there are 32 plots for every 1,000 households. Essex householders care least

There are 7,796 allotment sites in England. about them - 28 per cent of plots are vacant. The longest waiting lists are in Tyne and Wear, where 1,118 people are fighting for 236 vacant plots. Inner London has only 5,479 plots, hut Outer London has 30,954, more than any other area; 18 per cent are empty, and only 65 per cent have water laid on.

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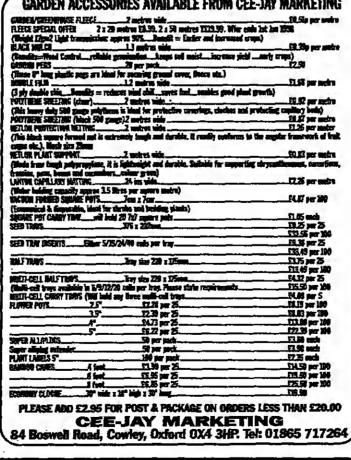
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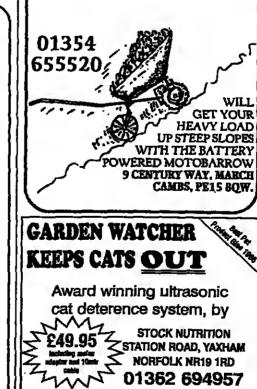






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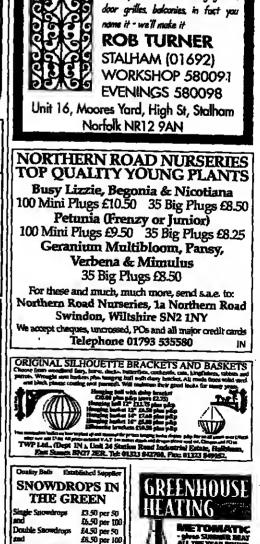
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## The flavour of

Balsamic vinegar from Modena

The medieval city of Modena in northern Italy is famous for three things: Luciano Pavarotti (born there), Ferrari cars (made there) and balsamie vinegar (produced there, and drizzled over salads and strawberries all over the world).

For centuries, making the aromatie dark liquid was very much a family affair, using juice from the white Trebbiano grape. The barrels were matured in attics and the vinegar was passed down the generations for personal consumption, or for precious gifts, some-

times even part of a bride's dowry. It was only as recently as 1967 that balsamic vinegar came into the market-place, when the town council of Spilamberto organised a competition for producers as part of its traditional St John's Fair. Soon a consortium was established to promote the production of traditional balsamic vinegar, which may still be sold only in bor-

The vinegar has now become an essential ingredient in the kitchens of the world's finest chefs. The food specialist Charles Carey, who began importing balsamic vinegar into the UK in 1980, puts its pop-

"It combines the traditional flavours of northern Italy with modern cooking techniques," he says. "And now the supermarkets have discovered it and Delia Smith uses it, everyone is lapping it up." However, be is worried that our love-affair with balsamic vinegar

ularity down to its versatility.

may be going a little too far.

In the US, apparently, they are trying to make their own, clear white balsamic vinegar, because chefs don't like the way it colours sauces and dishes. That sounds

positively ghastly to me." • St John's Fair, which still ineludes a balsamic vinegar competition, is held each June in Spilamberto, 16km north-east of Modena (details: Modena Tourist office (0039 59209520).

· Charles Carey's company, the Oil Merchant, imports and dis-

tles hearing the producer's name. tributes balsamie vinegar. For stockists or mail order, call 0181-740 1335. Prices are from £4.74 for a 500ml, five-year-old bottle to £75 for a 50ml, 40-year-old bottle.

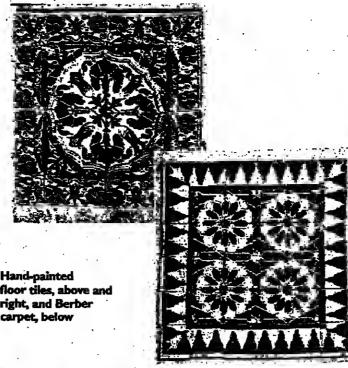
 His main supplier is La Vecchia Dispensa in the village of Castelvetro, 6km outside Modena. Across the square is a restaurant, Al Castello, run by members of the same family, where "they put balsamie vinegar on everything -Parmesan cheese, veal, even vanilla ice-cream," says Charles.

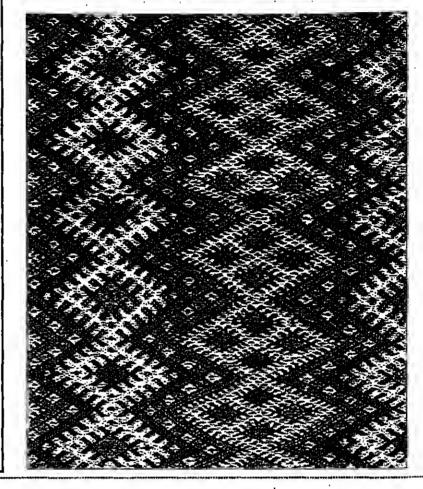
Modena is also famous for... Cherries ... from the nearby Vignola area. In April they have a cherry blossom festival. Parmesan cheese: the province

of Modena produces a quarter of Italy's total.

Pork: pigs are traditionally reared on the by-products of the cheesemaking process. A popular dish is zampone, pig's trotter boned and stuffed with mincemeat.

Nocino: a walnut liqueur that is only produced by local families who jealously guard their recipes.





# The stuff

Treasures from Morocco in north London

There is no need to wander through the souks of Marrakesh to find Arabic artefacts that look as though they have come straight from Aladdin's cave.

Much closer to hand than a Moroccan kasbah is Michael Davenport's treasure trove, lavishly displayed in new premises in London's Vauxhail. Here the collector or the spontaneous buyer can sift through a huge selection of sparkling brass lanterns, ancient walnut doors and windows, scores of handpainted tiles and delicate wrought-iron work, and can admire both antiques and new designs from Davenport's Fez-based workshops.

Intricate mosaie and ceramic table-tops set on wrought-iron bases are a favourite with people who want a touch of Eastern exotica at home. All the tiles are band-made, and cut into tiny pieces to make a mosaie design. There are Hasira rugs, made from palm fronds woven with coloured wools: they sell for around £125 each. An antique walnut couscous bowl, some 3ft in diameter, once used for tribal feasts, costs £140.

Davenport, an Oxford anthropology graduate, first fell in love with Morocco when he visited it as a student. He made friends with the local craftsmen and returned again and again, eventually deciding to set up his own business.

"There are many craft centres in Fez, where the

tradition of craftsman goes back for generations. The production and design in ceramics haven't changed. Clay is brought in by donkeys. and the kneading process right through to the firing is still as it used to be. Many of the brilliant colours used are still produced from crushed mineral ores.

Davenport imports both new and old pieces from Morocco in large quantities, thereby cutting down on the cost. He says it is often cheaper for customers to buy large items from his shop than to baggle in a Casablancan souk and then pay a hefty fee for shipment back to England.

A striking hand-painted vase standing around 3ft 6in high had a £150 price tag in his shop, and an impressive collection of large pots, vases and old butter-churns give the enthusiast a chance to pick up a real bargain.

The shop, now named Dar al Andalous - it was formerly known as Marabout, and run out of a Fulham garage offers a catalogue of mosaic designs in some 40 colours and undertakes commissions for tiling kitchens, hathrooms, swimming-pools and patios. Wall tiles cost around £60 per square metre, and hardwearing cement floor tiles from around £25.

Dar al Andalous is at Arch 11, Miles Street, Vauxhall, London SW18 1RZ (0171-720 9678. fax: 0171-627 5129).

Sally Stoples

#### **GAMES**

#### STATISTICALLY INSIGNIFICANT

More ruminations suggested by recent opinlon surveys.

Lifestyle surveys are are all very well in themselves, but it is only when you combine the findings of different polls that you arrive at a true picture of the degradation that affects the country today. Just look at the following figures:

I per cent of adults huy more than I0 lottery tickets each week; 1 per cent of women, given one wish, would ask for a new husband;

I per cent of women dunk hiscuits in iced tea; I per cent of women hope for sex after office Christmas parties; 1 per cent of men wear the same

underpants all week. Only when you see the facts so elearly spelt out do you realise that these are all the same people - miserable women

married to men in filthy underpants, so

desperate for a hetter life that they spend all their money on lottery tickets while dreaming of sex and a change of husband - and so full of self-loathing that they dunk their hiscuits in iced tea.

3 per cent of people bath only once a

3 per cent of women love someone other than their husbands;

3 per cent of women over 16 have gone ten pin bowling in the last month; 3 per cent of women over 16 have done weightlifting in the last month; 3 per cent of women over 16 have

played darts in the last month. 3 per cent of cats are more than 25 per cent overweight.

They will do anything, it seems, rather than go home to their unloved, unhathed

Still, the exercise will do them good, since they are probably as fat as their overfed pussy-cats.

#### CHILD-BEATING WILLIAM HARTSTON

It's educational, it costs nothing, you can learn it in seconds and best of all - it's a game at which I can beat my children. I cannot remember where I first met the game I am about to describe, but it suddenly came into my mind last week and I challenged my kids to a game. They drew a few times, and they lost a few times, and they gained some good practice at elementary arithmetic, but they never won (except for once, when I had a perfectly good excuse

which for the moment eludes me). Here's how it goes: you select nine cards from a pack bearing the numbers 1,2 ... up to 9 - or you can just write the numbers 1 to 9 on nine small pieces of paper. It's a game for two players, starting with one of them picking one of the cards. All are turned

face upwards, so you can choose whichever number you want. The other player then picks one of the eight remaining cards, and the players continue selecting cards in turn. The object is to build up exactly three cards that add up to 15. The trick of the game is to realise that what you are doing is playing hlindfold noughts-andcrosses, as may be

4 3 8 seen by examining 5 1 the numbers in this 9 three-by-three 2 7 6 array: Every threenumber sum to 15

is a winning noughts-and-crosses line. So if the first player begins with 5, the second must reply 4.8.2, or 6. If the first starts with a corner number, only 5 will save the game. Easy when you know how. But don't tell the children.

#### PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Kaffe Fassett, 60, painter and textile designer

The funny thing is, when I first started making mosaics, I would spend masses of money in antique shops. Trying to get chipped things, cracked things, for slightly less. Then, of course, I realised that the place to go these days is a good old car boot salc.

There's a local one that I really love. I walk down there every Sunday morning and shop the place ont, For 50p or £1.50, I can get bowls and jugs and mugs and everything in the colours I like. I even bought a whole set of china for £15 one mad day, and smashed it up to put on a couple of great big clay pipes

that I'm covering in very rich colours. 1 can't bear to spend too much money on pots and tiles and things for mosaics, so what I do is this: I go to every ear boot sale that I can find. It's a kind of game of trying to find all the colours I need, as cheaply as possible. even bargaining from 50p to 30p and so forth.

A friend of mine has a house in the country near Ryde, and we often go out to where amazing things happen in fields near airports. Great massive packs of people -God knows where they live - 1 have a feeling that they drive round the whole country doing all the car boot sales. They roll up with these enormous truckfuls of stuff; sinks and bath-plugs and things like that.

What I love about mosaics is that I'm taking the detritus of humanity and making it into something quite other - it's like making magie out of absolute drivelling crap which would otherwise be cluttering up the attic: stuff that everyone's just dying to throw out of their closets.

'The Magic Mosaics of Kaffe Fassett' will be in the Hillier Nurseries and Garden Centres exhibit in the Great Marquee (stand E17) at this year's Chelsea Flower Show, 10-22 May. Tickets: 0171-344 4343. Early booking is

#### CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

The tournament at Linares has finally settled down into something more traditionally grandmasterly than had been Suggested by the results of the early rounds. When the very best players in the world meet one another, generally around two-thirds of the games end in draws, yet the first three rounds at Linares produced seven decisive results from nine games. Normal service was resumed in rounds four and five. in both of which all the games ended in draws.

Scores after five of the 14 rounds are as follows: Shirov, Anand, Kasparov and Kramnik 21/2 out of 4; Svidler 21/2 out of 5; Ivanchuk I1/2 out of 5: Topalov 1 out of 4. As the following game

from round four shows, a draw can be just as exciting as a decisive result. Peter Svidler has often shown great skill in wriggling out of desperatelooking positions, and in this case his Houdini skills were tested to the utmost. White's 7.Bb5+ is an

unusual move, but it worked very well as the bishop. apparently offside on a4, reentered the game via co and d5. Black's plny relied on his ability to support the knight on c4, but after 18.24 his position was already looking desperate.

White wisely refrained from 19.axb5, when Ne5 gives Black a good game, and after 19.Nxd4 Black had to exchange his hishop on g7, leaving his king's defences

looking very weak. The real crisis came after

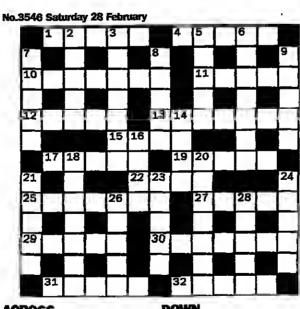
24.e5! when 24...Bxc6 would lose quickly to 25.Qxg6+. Svidler defended coolly, forcing White to sacrifice a piece, but his 29...Rc8 and 30...Rc5, while the only defence to White's growing threats, looked desperate.

After 32.dxc5! Black would reach a lost endgame with 32...Qxd3 33.Rg3+, so was forced to continue as he did. This led, after 35...Kg8, to a position in which White had rook and three pawns for bishop and knight, but his 36.Re1? was a bad mistake. Instead 36.Qg6 gives White every prospect of winning, though Black is still fighting after 36...Qe7 37.Rxb5 Qxe6.

White: Veselin Topalov Black: Peter Svidler I d4 Nf6 22 a5 Rh8 23 Rc6 Bb7 2 c4 g6 24 e5 Nf5

3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 25 Rxg6+ Kh8 26 Bxf7 Rxf7 5 e4 Nxc3 6 bxc3 Bg7 27 e6 Rf8 7 Bh5+ c6 28 Bg3 Kh7 8 Ba4 0-0 29 Rg4 Rc8 9 Ne2 ජ 30 Be5 Rc5 10 0-0 Nc6 31 Rg7+ Kh8 11 Be3 Na5 32 dxc5 Nxg7 33 Qg6 Rf6 £2 Rh1 No4 34 Bxf6 exf6 13 Bg5 h6 14 Bh4 b6 35 Qxh6+ Kg8 15 Bc6 Rb8 36 Re1 Nxe6 16 Bd5 Ba6 37 h4 Ng7 17 Qd3 b5 38 Qf4 Qd5 I8 a4 cxd4 39 Qg3 Kf7 19 Nxd4 Bxd4 40 Qc7+ Kg6 20 cxd4 Nd6 41 Qg3+ Kf7 21 RfcI Rb6 42 Oc7+ draw

#### CONCISE CROSSWORD



#### **ACROSS**

Nobles (5) Layers of wedding cake e.g. (5) Wash (7) 11 Tea container (5) 12 Greek bread (5) 13 Wonder (7) 15 Amphibian (4) 17 Slumber (5) 19 Serving spoon (5)22 Second-hand (4) 25 Since (7) 27 Dispute (5) 29 Relative (5)

Break out (5) Spread from centre (7) Be liable for (5) Fundamental (7) Incline (5) Play (5) Varieties (5) Lazy (4) 16 Literary work (4) 18 Reading-desk (7) 20 Unyielding (7) 21 Dark wood (5)

23 Brown tint of old pho-

24 E African country (5)

tographs (5)

Poetic language (7) Malicious (5) 26 Overtum (5) 28 Shine (5) 32 Impress (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 5 Sacks, 8 Suffrage (Sexifrage), 9 Hardy, 10 Election, tt Steel, 14 Web, 16 Baffle, 17 Ibidem, 18 Don, 20 Meril, 24 Jackboot, 25 Peril, 26 Contempt, 27 Stale, DOWN: 1 Aster, 2 Often, 3 Write, 4 Ignore, 6 Abattoir, 7 Kedgree, t2 Casement, t3 Official, 14 Wed, t5 Bin, t9 Orator, 21 Skate, 22 Roomy, 23 State.

#### BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON

TE:	ist-West game; dealer i	North
	North	
	<b>4</b> 9	
	♥9753	
	♦QJ 106	
	<b>♣</b> AQ86	
West		East
<b>◆</b> QJ107		<b>★</b> 6432
ØA2		₩K Q
♦K742		OA93
<b>4</b> 193		10742
	South	
	<b>↑</b> AK85	
•	♥J t0 8 6 4	
	♦85	
	<b>◆</b> K 5	

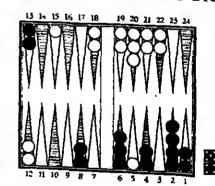
With high hopes of making a game contract in which he had at least four losers in top tricks, South squandered the chance that he had been given by the favourable opening

After two passes, South opened One Heart and North responded Three Clubs. This "force after passing" guaranteed support for hearts and was equivalent to a raise to at least Three Hearts showing where his values lay at the same time. South signed off firmly with Three Hearts but North did not heed the Gypsy's warning and went on to game.

West Icd +Q against Four Hearts, and the play to the first four tricks was easy. After winning with A, declarer played off three rounds of clubs to discard one of his losing diamonds. Then he started on trumps, praying for a 2-2 break. The hearts broke evenly all right, but when East won the first round with his queen, he cashed OA. Then, with a clear picture of what was happening, he led \$10 for the defenders to make their top trump honours separately.

Nobody could eriticise his start, but what should declarer have played at trick five? Having read what actually happened, you will spot South's mistake, He should have led dummy's last club and discarded his remaining losing diamond. Then there would have been no way left to the defenders to make more than two trump

#### BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY



This was problem three in the Christmas Quiz. Black to play 54. Should be play: (a) 13/4 (b) 13/8, 13/9 or (e)

This problem returns to the theme of "pay me now or pay me later". Black is well ahead in the race (78-111 before the roll) and if he can elear his two outside points he should win easily. White must hit to win. Of the three plays (a) can be quickly eliminated. If Black is going to leave a voluntary shot he should leave the minimum number of hits. 13/4 leaves 17 hits while 13/8, 13/9 leaves only 12 and brings the last man nearer to

So, pay me now or pay me later? Playing 13/8, 13/9 now seeks to settle the game in one move and as Black has already doubled this seems to fit in with the policy of aggression once the cube has been given away. On the other hand, if Black plays 8/3, 8/4, unless be rolls a 6 next roll he should he able to play most rolls safely

and White may have to give up his mid-point. When this position occurred at the Double Fives cluh it occasioned vigorous dehate. After several minutes the team playing Black moved 8/3, 8/4 and went on to lose the game. In fact they made the right play and were just unlucky to lose. This is the sort of pusition where computers are better at weighing the possibilities than humans and can be relied upon.

Jellyfish analysis shows move (c) as elearly correct. One indicator that should lead you to the right play here is that White's position is just about as strong as it could be. It is much better to leave a voluntary shot when there is a weakness in your opponent's board. Here, waiting for White to create that weakness is correct, and pay me later is the correct approach.

1





Underwater obstacles: the Diamond Reef system

Photographs: Sid Thacker/Ocean Optics

# Concrete socks OK

To be a skilled diver, while respecting the underwater environment, takes surprising skill. Eric Kendall learnt with the 'Diamond Reef'

going nowhere, isn't the reason most people take up diving, but it's the essence of the sport. Staying still at depth, rather than flapping around, is the hardest thing to do, even in the current-free confines of the deep eod. As with most skills, the only way to improve is through practice, a concept alien to many "qualified" divers.

The Diamond Reef - a few lengths of plastic tubing and some lead weights - can make all the difference. Not only will it make you a safer diver, whether you're a beginner or have years of experieoce under your weight belt; it will help save the environment, too, by reducing the amount of fragile marine life you crash into.

The system is an underwater obstacle course consisting of one nr more diamonds (more like squares) through which you swim. They're made of rigid plastic tubing and are weighted to hang at whatever depth you choose. By the pool side, the squares look absurdly large; below the surface, the course looks a piece of cake and you probably wonder why you bothered to turn up. Then, as you swim slowly through, snagging your tank or depth gauge and perhaps clipping the tubing with your fins oo the way out, it dawns oo you that not only are you higger than you realised, but you also move up and down a lot more.

Half the problem relates to diving parapherna-

lia. You can't possibly fail to notice how ungainly a fully equipped diver is oo dry land; those fins were definitely oot made for walking, and all the other clobber weighs a ton. The situation magically changes as you submerge, to find yourself weightless and fantastically mobile, operating effortlessly in a beautiful alien environment.

It's certainly the only place I'll ever manage to do a "triple salko with toe loop" without developing a limp, but it can also create a false sense of security. lo absolute terms your performance remains towards the lower eod of the marine scale, more sea slug than cavorting dolphin.

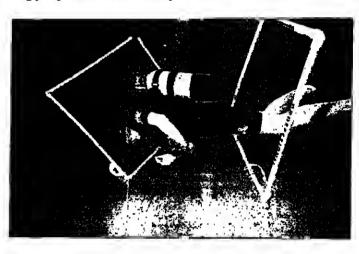
Doing things such as passing through narrow apertures with a tank on your back is something you cao have no feel for until you try it. Though you've eotered a world in which you can move in every dimension, you've in fact lost some of your spatial senses. You can see forward perfectly, but can barely look round, let alone behind you to check for clearance. It's like driving a transit van without wing mirrors. But the stakes when diving are a lot higher than scraped paintwork, which is why it's all the better to go through a few plastic squares first, developiog catfish's whiskers before throwing in variables such as curreot and swell.

The other half of the story is more technical, though it's hardly rocket science; we're talking about buoyancy. In broad terms, too much of it and you bob around oo the surface; too little, and you get the concrete socks effect. Somewhere in between is your goal. In practice, wheo diving with a buoyancy com-

Floating around at the bottom of a pool, slowly pensator (BC) - a kind of inflatable life-jacket you're kept afloat to start with by having sufficient air in the BC. Letting some out allows you to sink. Putting just the right amount back in (from your pressurised tank), keeps you suspended, below the surface of the water, ocutrally buoyant. Bingo.

The tricky hit is maintaining ocutral buoyancy at different depths. Because air is compressible, a given volume in your BC, and lungs will diminish as you descend. As the pressure increases you become correspondingly less buoyant, sinking ever faster. In reverse, just watch your bubbles expand as they rise above you. The effect oo an ascending diver, all other things being equal, is exponential: the higher you go, the more the air in your BC expands, which makes you rise faster, which expands the air - and so on. Unfortunate divers who've really lost it come firing out of the water like a Polaris missile, hardly a textbook ascent, which may well be accompanied by the beods or other unmeotiooable afflictions. It's precisely why good buoyancy control is so critical.

Meanwhile, hack at the bottom of the pool, you're going cross-eyed trying to squirm upsidedown through a complicated series of squares. The bends is the last thing oo your mind and so, irooically, is huoyancy control - it's becoming instinctive, which is just the way it oeeds to be.



Going through hoops

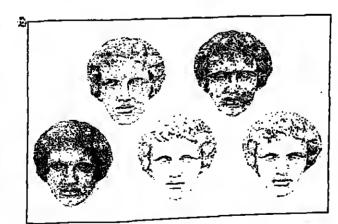
Cootact Matt Crowther (Padi Master Scuba Diver Trainer & Medic First Aid Instructor) of New Concept Diver Training (07970 306 369, or 0181-644 5357 after 8pm) for details on the BTSI Diamond Reef Sys-

tem, or encourage your diving instructor to take it up. For holiday divers, an hour in a local pool oo the "reef" is an Ideal refresher course, before heading off.

A Diamood Reef stamp in your log book is becoming recognised at diviog sites all over the world as a sign that you know what you're doing aod care about the eovironment. At his Fiji Island Resort, Jean-Michel Cousteau promotes the system, finding it useful for determining the skills of those wishing to dive oo the reefs. Though it's a simple system, the Reef's effect could be fuodameotal, particularly to the future of heavily used sites where so much of the damage is caused by lousy divers.

# lust give me a paintbrush and a plant pot, and I'll give you verdigris

You don't have to be an artist, or an expert, to create your own paint finishes, writes Catherine Stebbings. And it's fun



paint effects are not about covering up old blemishes, creating an highly personal



passion. You may have tried the minimalist look, played with vibrant acrylic limes and lemons, dabbled in deep greens and regal reds, and ended up slapping oo any old thing. You may, oo the other hand, always have felt duhious about special effects. The fabulous interiors shown in glossy magazines can be a far cry from all that effort of messing around with paints and polishes, only to find it looks wrong wheo it's all dried and varnished. To see whether I could rag and drag with the hest of them, I took a day course with Paint Magic, just off Portobello Road in oorth London.

Decorating tends to be a

Paint Magic courses are devised by a team of experts led by Jocasta Innes, the maestra of paint effects and author of the phenomenally successful Paint Magic. There are many courses to choose from; the company suggested "Basic Paint Effects", an introduction to decorative techniques for walls, woodwork and furniture.

The course was slickly presented by the shop's inhouse teacher, Jacqueline Pedersoo. The day began with a cup of coffee and a slide presentation showing the various effects we would be discussing and practising later in the day.

Gradually Jacqueline iotroduced us to all the different media, from oilhased products to the more versatile water-based primers, paints and varnishes. Within ao hour I was painting a picture frame with its first coat, and dreaming of where

my masterpiece would hang. Theo it was time to try our hand at paint effects: washing, ragging, sponging and dragging. As I pondered over my board of lettuce green, gently stroking the hrush across its surface as if it were a precious stone, I realised why paint effects are so appealing. This is oot about slapping on paint to covering old hlemishes and scars; this is about lovingly teodiog to your walls, putting your evergy and care into creating something original and highly personal. As Jacqueline remarked, "Paint effects oeed to be subtle, to create a feeling or a mood rather than a clever look."

were guided from one project to another, following a demonstration, theo attempting it ourselves. There was no arduous washing out of hrushes and collecting of paints. The mess was conveniently dispersed in a sink behind the screen, and fresh hrushes and materials would be laid out for the next project. As a result we achieved a great deal.

Throughout the day we

My primary trophy was a distressed picture frame - a rather impressive effect created by smothering the uodercoat with candle wax, painting over it in top coat and rubbing the dry frame down with wire wool. While the others put the finishing touches to their frames, stencilling on fleurs-de-lis and delicate marine life, I waxed and polished mine for

> a more rugged look. While we learnt about both oil- and water-based paint, we

used only the latter, because they dry quickly. As Jacqueline explained, "waterbased products are much easier to use, mistakes can be washed off or painted over and drying times are quick creating special effects is much easier than it used to be."

Courses generally take between six and 10 people, to give time for individual tuition. People's reasons for joining vary from wanting to decorate their own homes, to professional decorators, both meo and women, wanting to learn new techniques. Rachel, a researcher in the City, saw it as a pleasaot way to spend a Saturday: "It's very therapeutic to do something creative that doesn't require a lot of artistic ability or intellectual input."

Our final artistic veoture was a small terracotta pot painted in verdigris, stippled in two shades of green and finished with a fine line of copper-coloured wax. The result looked remarkably like ageing copper. That's one I will definitely do again, to transform all those plastic pots at home.

Perhaps one of the most refreshing aspects of the course was its objectivity. Naturally, we used the inhouse products during the day, but Jacquelioe gave us a good overview of what is on the market in both specialist and DIY stores. It was also not assumed that we all had dreamy houses; the course was geared towards giving you confidence to go home and do what you wanted.

Can I oow earn a fortune decorating the homes of the rich and famous? Probably oot, but I am oow confideot enough to give my home the sort of face-lift I thought I could never afford.

Point Magic Courses run throughout the year in shops

around the country. They run for one to five days; prices start at £60 for a full day's tuition. 10am-4.30pm, plus materials. For details, contact Paint

Magic, 79 Shepperton Road. London N1 3DF. Courses around the country: London

(0171-792 8012), Richmond (0181-940 9799), Islington (0171-359 4441), Bash (01225 423040). Arundel (01903 883653). Guildford (01483 306072), Marlow (01628 477707). N Ireland (01232

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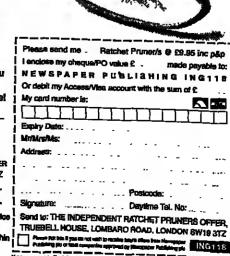
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BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Him Of Praise (viscord) (2.45), Nahthan Lad (2.45).

1.15 MAKERS MARK BOURBON VICTOR LUDORLAN NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 4YO 2m Penalty Value £5,084

THE SAD MAD BAD (USA) (B3) (D) (P D Savil) Mrs M Reveloy 11 10.... MANGLENO (14) (D) (EIF) (Stuert M Mercer) M Pipe 11 8 stleck, white hoops and aleans, hooped cup 120 MRNSTERIAL MODEL (105) (D) (Mass H Knight) Mass H Knight 11 7 \_ Emercial Gradu. Britost. (193) (3) (abs. in Nur) (194) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195) (195)

Light great and black diamonds, light green cap, black diamond

14 declared 
14 declared 
14 declared 
15 parts Minstel Set 138, Cobie Set 78, EETTING: 92 Tom Silts, 5-1 Coast Tomy, 11-2 Albosatins, 5-1 Killaride Lad, 10-1 Sed Mind Back, Marellinno, 12-1 Coral Island, Sharp Temper, Supremision, 14-1 Barnburgh Boy, Kingdom Emperer, 16-1 Ministelletins Model, 20-1 Printle Ministry, 200-1 Cobie 1997. No More Heade 4 10 11 P Niven 9-2 (Mrs M Reveloy) 7 ran FORM GUIDE

TORIN SILK can be followed now that he has got hits eye in over timber. This is a far more severe test than the one ha texad when getting off the mark at Market Resen 14 days ago, but stamme is his forms and his needed an aggressive, tront-numing idde at that track on ground which appeared to be niding fairly lest on the hundles course. Kins Green, fourth at Market Resen, won at Newcastle afforwards. Forn Silk was backward for his hundles bow at Kampersen, won at Newcastle afforwards. Forn Silk was backward for his hundles bow at Kampersen, won at Newcastle afforwards. Forn Silk was backward for his hundles bow at Kampersen, won the subsequent win and his smart Fiel form for John Cox in heigand. He was among the bottom weights when second to Winged Husser in the high Cessarwhich at the course in the bigh Cessarwhich at the course in the high Cessarwhich at the period of the course of th

1.45 GREENALLS ORIGINAL LONDON DRY GIN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £20,000 added 2m 4f Penelty Value £14,031 -32514 FLYING INSTRUCTOR (14) (C) (ISF) (Lady Lyel) P Webber 8 11 10.... Dark green, light green eross balls, hooped cap

**HYPERION** 

GOING: Good (watered).

© Right-hand course, Practically flat. Run-in of 200yd.

©Course is on A308 at Surbury, Kempton Park reliway station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Premier Endosure 1/6 (16 to 25-year-olds 1/0); Paddock Enclosure 1/2; Silver Ring Es. Accompanied children under-16 flee CAR PARK Members 12; remainder, tree.

©LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholeon 21-82 (256%), N Henderson 1-80 (163%), R Ainer 11-39 (28.2%), N Twiston-Devies 11-65 (163%), M Pipe 10-69 (16.9%).

©LEADING JOCKEYS: A Megicire 25-103 (24.3%), M A Pitogerald 22-125 (17.5%), N Williamson 16-63 (19.3%), R Ourrevoody 15-99 (18.2%), C Ulewelfyn 9-56 (16.4%).

©FAVOURITES: 128-314 (40.8%).

2.00 EMBLEM CHASE (CLASS B) £10,500 added 2m Penalty Value £7,068

275- LIGHTENING LAD (254) (D) (Rutherd Palescort) J King 10 11 0 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A P McCoy 3KGN NASHVILLE STAR (USA) (Z) (D) (R Mathew) R Mathew 7 11 D.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ S Curren V 1-KGO SUBLIME FELLOW (28) (D) (Rory McGrafty N Handerson 8 11 D.\_\_\_\_\_ M A Pitegered

- 5 declared 
8ETTING: 6-13 Kadastrof, 9-2 Lightening Lad, 11-2 Sublime Fllow, 7-1 On So Flinky, 25-1 Nestiville Star

2.35 STAKIS CASINOS SERIES DOVECOTE NOVICE HURDLE (Grade 2) (CLASS A) £15,000 added

SETTING: 5-2 Buddy Marvel, 3-1 Road Racer, 100-30 Shahrur, 4-1 Poler Prospect, 11-2 Circus Star.

FORM GUIDE
ROAD RACES can be forgiven for finishing only fourth behind Mr Percy when an uneasy

ROAD RACER can be forgiven for finishing only fourth behind Mr Percy when an unway tarounte at Chettenham four weeks ago because he ddrill act on the course. A former useful Falcare when trained by Lynda Ramsden, Road Racer was a first-light faller on his hunding debut but won his next three - at Huntingdon, Ludlow and over course and distance. He goes well on too of the ground, this a topograph case with Shahrur, Seat Prospect, Buddy Marvel and Chrous Star among the opposition. Shahrur slammed Alaberg four lengths in the Lancarote Huntle over the trip here five weeks ago and stayed on strongly when following up off a 7th higher mark at Forntwell on Monday - his fourth victory this season. Polar Prospect, twice a Pat winner for Ben Hanbury's yard, went in first time up over timber at Uttoseter before Christmae and easily landed the odds at Taurion list time. His remoute fourth in between was behind French Holly in the Totworth Huntle on very testing going at Sandown. Buddy Marvel was pulled up in their Sandown contast but was unbeatter in three previous runs over hundles - the first two in Instand - and loofed prefix small when beating previous and subsequent scoore Bakkar five lengths at Doncaster tour weeks back. Oliver Sherwood's runner should go well but might prefer some cut in the ground. Circus Star has been well beaten in useful company at Ascot and Wetherby ance writing the first two starts this term, but at Chettenham - on the escond occasion beating subsequent scorer Mr Markham.

3.05 MITSUBISHI PENDIL NOVICE CHASE (Grade 2) (CLASS A) £20,000 2m 4f 110yds Pen Val £12,550

Rod, royal office triple diamond, diamonds on sleenes, sed use, royal office diamond
141 POLAR PROSPECT (37) (D) (8, Mee Don Last and Bit Yeles) P Hobbs 5 11 3 ... ... G Torrany

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Spick And Spen (viscred) (3.35).

2m Penalty Value £9,375

1997 Sammartino 5 ft 10 A Maguire 2-5 lav (D Nicholson) 7 ran

4.40 Bimsey 5.10 North Tyne

4.05 CHALLENGER DU LUC (map)

Kempton

3.05 Stormy Passage

2.00 Kadastrof

3.35 Sir Talbot

GOING: Good (watered).

2.35 Shahrur

5 31/81 EVEN FLOW (SE) (D) (A TA Wester) T Coosty 8 108 ..... 8 S21-22 MANYSARI (29) (D) (BP) (R Packet) P Rich 10 10 4.... 7 Statut CLARE Man (42) (C) (D) (BP) (M P Vising) N Teston-Davies 10 to \_\_\_\_\_ C Lievellyn. Light blue, enweld green attipe, enreniel green and light blue hopped steevies, while cap, light blue star \_\_\_\_ ? declared \_\_\_ ?

-7 declared 
Minimum weight: 10st. Two handicap weight: Clare Nort 9st 11th.

Barrier, 5-2 Normale Forte, 3-1 Even Flow, 7-2 Nalysent, 6-1 Phyling Instructor, 7-1 Clare Nort, 12-1 Teres, 14-7 Kibrest
1997: The Grey Mork 9 12 0 A Dobbin 8-0 few (G Pichards) 8 ran

1897: The Grey Mork 9 to 0 A Dobbn 8-to fav (G Richards) 8 ran
FORM GUIDE
Moranale Forts is in the form of his life and his Sandown win two outings back (after a
marethon journey from Jerman Ademys yard in Scottand) was a decidive are from MAIVSARI,
but a form reversal is certainly possible. Karlastrof, third, had a stiff task at the weights,
but has done well since and gives the form a solid lock. Nasysari was a bit backward on
his first abort for 13 months and has since been a close second to Anabranch at Doncaster. A blunder at the ninth probably made the difference between victory and defeat
but that was another storag performance against a mare who was winning for the sich
lime this term. A 950 put can help Nellysen reverse the Sandown form with Mannale Forms,
who has since taken a decent handicap at Ayr in cracking style. Even Flow held the Recing Post Chase engagement, but can run hare off his comed mark and could still be shead
of the handicapper. He was under a cloud when beaten at Warwick in late: December,
but has won his other two starts nicely.

Selections NAIVSARI but has won his other two starts nicely.

2.15 STRETTON LEISURE SELECT HURDLE (CLASS B) £15,000 addied 2m Penalty Value £10,211 Dir. 15,000 accord. 2m Penalty Value £10,211 according to \$15,000 according to \$100 place £1 Website \$10,211 according \$100 place £100 place £1 

Yellow, purple spots, yellow cap

— 6 deciared — BETTING: 4-6 Rad Stager, 11-4 Master Bevaled, 11-2 Selletor, 16-1 New Ins., 12-1 Debutares Days. SETTIME OF THE STATE OF T

FORM GLIBE
RED BLAZER bypassed Wincerton's Regwel Hurdle in which Master Beveled was second, but well bealtin, by Itm Supposin. Mester Seveled looks the type to cope well with
two quick runs, but he will do well to give 8h and a beating to Red Blaze, who wants
some cut underhoot and will get the strong pace he needs with Nipper Reed and New
inn in the Ine-up. Those two are up against 8 at the weights and, white Bellator also
needs to run above himself, he appeals as a hone with a fair ist more to offer despite
just a fair severith to Sharpical in Newbury's Tote Gold Trophy. He would be easier to forcy if his stable was in better form Red Blazer would be a plausible Champion Hurdle cutsider, despite has fragile logs, if the ground came right and should be good enough. He
is open to improvement and was set plenty to do when third to Nipper Reed in an Ascot
handicap lest month. There is a 28th turn-round now.

Selection: RSD BLAZER

GREENALLS GRAND NATIONAL TRIAL BECL 2.45 GREENALLS GRAND NATIONAL INDAHANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (CLASS A) £80,000 3m 4f 110yds Penaity Value £50,057 

Poyal bits, not chavons, what steeres, bits cap, red hoops
3-03U2 DUN SELLE (20) (bits A Cosnob) P Risty (6) 9 T0 6
hallow and gray chavons, yellow pleases, yellow cap, gray sair
223411 COURT MELODY (14) (Mail Colouri) P Nichols 10 10 4 Broom and gray quartered, gray steames,gray cap, brownti-SPP COLONEL IN CHIEF (25) (Rabert Ogulen) G Richards 8 100.... Masse and pink check, white Steams 12542 DOM SAMOURAL (RS) (7) (SF) (8 A Kilpatrot) M Pipe 7 10 0...

chance only to torrole over two out in A

same course at the end of January. Portend Rowe's runner was beaten a langth by a useful type in Ask The Butler at Warwick a fortnight ago and will not be far away here. Green Desert won his first three chases - four in all - but was a faller at Newcastle sto

3.35 VOICE NEWSPAPER ADONIS HURDLE (Grade 2) C4 (CLASS A) £15,000 4YO 2m Pen Value £9,510

BETTING: 9-4 Sir Tatbot, 3-1 Float Estate, 7-2 Supply And Ownard, 9-2 Virtuoso, 5-1 Fabilisto, 12-1 Premier Bay, 20-1 Spick And Span 997: L'Opera 4 10 12 A Maguire 7-2 (D Micholson) 10 ram FORBIR GUIDE

SRI TALBOT, twice successful on the Fat in 1997 for Richard Hannon's stable, hacked up at Hurringdon on his hurding bow on January. Jim Old's charge was beaten six lengths by City Hall when odds-on at Sandown – Presiter Bay and Spicit And Span mers behind – but that winner is pretty smart and Sir Tabbot can come good again the time. Supply And Destrend made a winner is pretty smart and Sir Tabbot can come good again the time. Supply And Destrend made a winner is pretty smart and eather a three-month absence, followed up at Lingfleid. Richard Durwoody, who was abound both times is again in the saddle. Real Estate, only fourth to Sound Appeal when 9-4on for his hurding here in October, left that efforts therind when warning at Asout (soft) next time – 9 Sound Appeal is seven-length third. Real Estate was again beaten by Sound Uppeal next time – of October left in the following the stable was a weak heat easily at Stratford on his British debut but was unplaced in his next three outings and was beaten a couple of lengths by Real Estate's stoblemate Balkar at Leicester lest time. Selection: SR TALBOT

4.05 RACING POST HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) C4 (CLASS A) 250,000 added 3m Pen Value \$29,500

222F CHALLENGER DU LUC (FR) (A4) (D) (SF) (D A Johnson) M Pipe 8 77 To \_ A P McCoy B

Geen, pdd sach and emies, gold and make hopped cap

340(F. EGYPT MILL PRINCE (401) (C) (S R Webb) Mrs J Pitnen 12 10 9 \_ . . . \_ . R Femant

well beaten at Doncasset.

OHMAZ FADALISTE (FR) (11) (D) (Texor Paratro) M Pipe 11 6...

Derk blue, light blue demand and demand on cap

4221 REAL ESTATE (21) (D) flors I blockly D Microbarn 12 ...

Emerati green, while stars, exceeding years cap, while star

5 PREMIER BAY (21) (E M Thorston) P Hobbs 10 (2...

Emerald green, acarter hooped aleeves and cop
-18311 KENDAL CAVALUER (21) (Addise) Wingfield Ogloy) B R Milman 8 10 0 .
Pink, black chemon and emisse, questered cap

T RENDUESHAM LIMITED HANDICAP HURDLE 4.40 (Grade 2) (CLASS A) £20,000 added 3m 110yds

Black, yellow chemons, yellow decree, black emiles, countried our-intiz GYSART (17) (0) (Mrs R Obbold) M Pipe 9 11 2. What, large dark blue spots, red cap Purple and yellow diamends, purple alteres and cap DEPTS: MEDITATOR (309) (C) (U) (Ale S Doyle) R Prilips N 107 ....

GYSART's sole defeat in five starts this season was when betan eight langths by Tom-GYSART's sole defeat in the status this season was when betan eight lengths by Tompeton at Ascot the time before last - conceding 34th to the winner. Martin Pipels nine-year-old has since won easing up on a return to Accot if days ago on which display he has should have nothing to fear from Tressure Again (3th better) and Pleasure Shared (1bb better), who firsthad a 18-length that and 28-length fifth respectively. Helving eald that, Treasure Again was having his first race in 14 months on that occasion and will be much shaighter for it. Stiff, Gysart seems likely to have more trouble in deposing of Bookhouse Boy, even though this rival is only 30 better in than when he finished 11 lengths better than in Tompetoob Ascot race. Bucktoose Boy had defed it is 10b at Wincamon New Street and

5.10 KEMPTON STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m Fenalty Value £1,424

O LANDCRURSER (RT) (GJ Burket C Allon 6 TI 4 ...... M Rich O THE BIZZ (B) (J.F. Parmert) J.Parmert 5 to 13 

1897: Country Beau 5 11 3 M Richards 50-1 (J King) 17 min

Red, gray Cross of Lorraine, shows and Cap -8 declared -3.25 SCOTMID EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £4,500 added 2m 4f

... A P NGCov

- 18 declared - Marines weight 10st Trus handlesp weight: Shangarry St 12th, Colonel in Chief 8er 1 lib, Dom Sannou. Set 10th, Yande Carelin for 11th.

SETTING: 11-2 Dan Belle, 6-1 Cell It A Day, 13-4 Streth Royal, 7-1 Him Of Praise, 10-1 Court Molody, Kendel Cavelin, 12-1 Don Samoural, Belanont King, Barth Strenkt, 14-1 Colonel in Chief, Halther

1997: Surry Bay & 10 8 J Caborne 7-2 (C Brooks) 5 ran FORM GUIDE

DUN BELLE was the only novice to conset the Thysates Handicap Chase at Gownen Park last season and was 5th wrong in the handicap, too. So size did was to be a running-on fourth to Couldre Se Better. She had been on the up before that and seems to be maintaining the progress judged on her run to divide Dorans Pride and Anabatic in the Hernessy Cognec Gold Cup at Leopardetown last time. Anabatic went on to land the fire Hernessy Cognec Gold Cup at Leopardetown last time. Anabatic went on to land the fire Hernessy Cognec Gold Cup at Leopardetown last time. Anabatic went on to land the fire Hernessy Cognec Gold Cup at Leopardetown last time. Anabatic went on to land the fire Hernessy Cognec Gold Cup at Leopardetown last time. Anabatic went on to land the Hernessy Cognec Gold Cup at Leopardetown last fire time. Anabatic went on the Indian Of Presse the household to fire the time of the time of the fire of the herness to last a fact lengths shriply have been feeling the effects of his hard-fought Michael Case. It is shown the Corea Weight National at Chepsion in December and then fizzied out in the Pelar Marsh hers, I appeat him to do best of the others, but he has hyper-ensistive sidn and Tom Jenis' has two bein anapended for his use of the whip on him. Dom Sarpoural, tough and in form, is a few pounds out of the handicap proper. Selection: DUN BELLE

3.20 MTB GROUP MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £3,165

221 GF Persetty Value £3,165
222 SEFFY NOVA (17) Júns 8 Tanton) N Felson-Davise 6 11 7
0 BOSEY YOLET (39) (Faul Sandy R Judies 6 11 7
20 CAPTAIN MORRIS (85) (P Wegment) P Wegment 6 11 7
21 CELTIC PARK (114) Júns 8 Schwarzschadt) k Bally 6 11 7
221 CELTIC PARK (114) Júns 8 Schwarzschadt) k Bally 6 11 7
232 CRABAPPLE HELL (25) Júns Bainet D Michaelson 6 11 7
0005 DESLAS DEVR. (35) (Binn Marris) Jonath 8 11 7
4 RAN DYSTRAMAL (FR) (36) (Fabort Opder) M Tocharles 5 11 7
JUNES RIVER (A Farrigan) Mrs M Reveley 5 11 7
0 NOSLE ACT (365) (Alex C Dubey 8 Baught 7 11 7
20 LD ROUVEL (384) (77) Pers D Dubey 10 Marrisy Smith 7 11 7
REBEL ROCKET (Mrs Backer Perfecthip) R Lac 8 11 7
197 TANGLERODO BOY (221) Mrs D Bulley Mrs D Bulley 7 11 7
22 THE PICKLED DUBE (36) (Timothy N Chick) T George 8 11 7
33 THE SHOW BURN (341) (The My Syndicald T Table 5 11 7
34 TIME WARPHOR (10) (Are Dusham Moore) G M Moore 7 11 7
14 VITAL ISSUE (189) (Area Dusham of Westminster) JJ Orbell 8 11 7
352 WISS GURRERS (364) (Time Smith G Richards 5 11 2
42 ABOO HOM (22) (Samman Pigl M Pipe 4 10 10

— 20 declared —
ETTING: 7-4 Old Rosent, 6-5 Cosbernic Hills 5-1 Barry Nova, 5-1 Cablic Park. ..... Ditte E J Jones \_\_\_\_ K William A Johnson S Wynn N Bentley C F Swen

- 20 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Old Rouvel, 9-2 Campopie HB, 5-1 Beety Nova, 5-1 Calde Park, 10-1 Fan D'Estru val, 12-1 June's River, Time Warrior, 14-1 The Pictical Duke, 16-1 The Score Born, Wardis-Bridge Yitali fasse, 20-1 others 1997; Absolutely Equinerns 6 ti 7 8 Poveti 3-1 jt for (5t Heaton-Elia) 16 ran

3.50 WHITE RABBIT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) 27,000 

BETTONG: 4-5 Edelweie Du Moulin, 9-4 Potter's Gale, 7-2 Storm Demega, 14-1 Lawsedon Mi 33-1 Coolinny, 50 Chesias 1937: Plying Instruction 7 11 5 R Ballerry 6-4 (P R Webber) 4 ran

4.25 TARVIN STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,750 added 2m Penalty Value £1,588

= 20 declared = BETTING: 7-2 Nedive Recruit, 9-2 Bors Bors, 11-2 Indian Miles, 13-2 Woodfield Ride, 6-1 Kingta Road, 16-1 Rhoeneigr Bey, 12-1 Might Vibes, Steacher Azers, 16-1 Mejor Tors, Henbury, 20-1 others 1997; Harris Cruft Siar 8 ft 4 R Messey (3) 3-1 (O Nichulson) 12 ran

Minimum weight (füt. The handisp weight Jüber The Hibber St 9b.
BETTING: 9-4 Challenger Dit Luc, 7-2 Super Tection, 9-2 Jibber The Kibber, 9-2 Cullinos Bay, 11-2
Land Afre, 18-1 Andreic Repress, 20-1 Egypt ME Pricos
1997: Muchimm 11 10 2 R Farrard 14-1 (Mrs J Pitrom) 9 ran
FORM GUIDE:

FORM GUIDE

CHALLENGER DU LIIC, surprisingly still without a win so far this segson, can rectify matters here. Martin Piper's trenter, odds on at Wincardon last time, was prominent only to tell four out in the race won by Califisce Bay. He can get the better of this rival although 6th worse in. Orderinger Du Luc, a thusbating type who has to be produced very late, had finished runner-up in his four processing starts line term, including when beaten two lengths by See More Business in the King George, looking the winner on the run-in-but feeling to run on. Super facilities has soored four thres here, all of shorter trips, while Land Affar's three chase victories at this track have also been over shorter. Even so, Super facilies might be the one to cause Challenger Du Luc most trouble. albeer The Kalber, favoured by the weights when wriving at Wincardon for the first time in two years, finds himself 5th wrong in the weights the time but can go well for lest year's winning stable. He looks much better than Ambraik Express, who is from the same yard.

Penalty Value £12,320

-P4032 BIMSEY (28) (Mrs J Ryan) C March 8 11 7 ..... Red, black asserts, striped cop

- 8 declared -Maramum weight: 10st 7th, True handlesp weights: Tressure Again 10st, Meditetar Bis 4th. BETTING: 5-5 Gyeart, 3-1 Buckhouse Boy, 5-2 Birmany, 13-2 Treasure Again, 14-1 Pleasure Shared, 207 Pharenear 7 TO B A Megune 6-1 (D Micholson) 10 ran

behind nen in tompetides Associated behanded by his determined in the horizontal behand that behand that the concepting with the previous withers and induction had time. Meditizer, a course wither over two miles and five three years ago, gets this longer trip but is getting long in the tooth and its without a race since April. Pick of those with experience could be lift Universe, only 13th of 24 to indian Spring at Selection: GYSART

ABSOLUTELY HOPEFUL (Michael Pauliette C Morboth 5 m 4. ...

SETTING: 9-4 Tudor King, 7-2 Mr Universe, 11-2 Baran Rats, 6-1 A-Way Ahead, 10-1 North Tyne, Team Prospect, 12-1 Landcraiser, 14-1 Absolutely Hopetst, 20-1 others

Musselburgh

HYPERION 2.20 Eastern Project 2.50 Kings Minstral 3.25 Little Duke 4.00 Tom Brodle 4.30 Peggy Gordon 5.00 Reeds

GOUNG: Good to Firm (Good in places).

@Right-hand oval course with right turns.

@Course a 5m E of Edinburgh on A1. Bus link from Edinburgh station 5m. ADMISSION: Club 212; Tettersalls 26 (DAPs and unemion 5m ADMISSION: Club 512; Tettersalls 26 (DAPs and Unemployed 23). Accompanied under-18s free CAR PARTIC Free, eLEADING TRAINERS; M Hammond 30-128 (234%). J N Johnson 4: 106 (125%). P Monteith 14-84 (157%). Mrs S Bradburns 11-96 (155%). eLEADING JOCKEYS: A Dobbin 17-15 (147%). B Storey 15-135 (111%). N Williamson 6: 13 (45.2%). A B Smith 6-47 (12.8%). eFAVOURITES; 120-290 (14.4%). B Smith 6-47 (12.8%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Victor Laszlo (visored) (2.20); Moonfield Venture (2.50).

light Venture (250)

3-200 AMEWICH (25) J Berry 5 ti 7. .... 00000 DARK MIDNIGHT (3) D Lamb 9 ti 7 ..... 

1 21P461 MASTER BANARO (25 (CD) Photosin ti 20 Mr M Bactoure (5) 

4 -UZZIA KUNGS MINISTRAL (100) D Lamb 8 11 3 - J Surface 5 344906 MINISTRAL (100) D Lamb 8 11 13 - J Surface 5 344906 MINISTRAL (100) D Lamb 8 11 13 - J Surface 10 14 - J Sur ZEPD ALASKAN HER (25) (C) A Street 7 179 ...... Gary Lyons Y 5-P2:P SELDOM BUT SEVERE (SZ) (CD) E Elon 8 10 6 .... D Parter B BIZSAP BROADWATER BOY (25) M Hammond 10 105. Mr C Botter (3) 1P-020 PARSONS GREEN BOY (CT) (CR W Kemp 8 10D R McCanth (S) 

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicup weights: Lord Pal Sci 12th, Paracris Green namerum weight: 10st. Tue hardicep weights Lord Pal Sti 12b, Parcora Green Buy 9st 10b, Malbars Sti 10b. BETTING 2-Pher Echo, 4-1 Master Barrerd, 11-2 Apecha Raider, 10-1 Seldom But Severe, Broadwane Boy, Alastem Heir, 12-1 Moortlight Ven-ture, 14-1 Kinge Minetral, Dasbranc, 16-1 Lord Pal, 20-1 Forswer Grey, 25-1 others

4PCSC LITTLE DURE (4S) (CD) his 5 Bradume 6 ft 5 205 YOUNG TONO DE JH Johnson 6 115. . . \_ \_ AS Smith 207-P BOWLANDS COUNTRY (14) D Mutter 7 11 0 \_\_\_\_ D J Mottatt - 6 declared -

BETTING: 4-9 Little Duke, 5-2 Young Tomo, 12-1 Natural Talent, 20-1 Bou-lands Country, 25-1 Ovahandy Man, 40-1 Passier

4.00 SCOTTISH LIFE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 4f

3 10354 WISE ADVICE (29) (CO) If Hammond 8 11 9 Mr C Bosons (7) 4 332P21 BRIAR'S DELIGHT (23) RAKET C TI 7 \_\_\_\_ S Melrose (7) 8 30333 TOM BRODIE (23) (CI (BF) J H Johnson 8 1 5. . . A 5 Smith - 5 stockered -

SETTING: 15-8 Tom Brooks: 11-4 Saler's Dollgist, 7-2 Wayuphill, 9-2 Tighter Bodges, 7-1 Wise Advice

4.30 BELJING BEER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 4f FRATE MY SHENWHOORH (36) (CD) (SF) JH JOYSON 7 TI TO.

3 1-5546 CONMANDER GLEN (23) (CD) M Hammond 8 11 3 D Bensley - 5 declared -

BETTING: 5-6 My Sherwadoch, 4-1 Contratire, 5-1 Monkey Wench, 13-2

added 4YO 2m

21640 SRENT VALLEY (10) (CO) Miss L School 11 3 . . . . T Read V 22 FEB. A LINE (43) M Harmond 11 0 . . . . . B Storey 300 FORTURE HOPPER (87) Was E Sack 109 . . M Garult (7) DOP HERCHAN (61) J Howard Johnson 10 8 ...... A S Smith 304 HEVER GOLF CHARMER (SE) 8 Rothwoll 102 A Currie (7)

# **Punters' Guide**

HAYDOCK

L15: ALHOSAAM, who ran a good race to finish two-lengths second to the six-year-old Country Bean in a novice hurdle on good to firm ground over 2m 110yds at no problems with the drying ground. Manileno, who returns to his own age group after a 10%-length fifth to House Of Dreams over 2m at Catterick, is another who will not mind the faster surface and could prove the danger.

1.45: NATYSARI, who ran an excellent race to be a neck runnerup to prolific winner Anabranch, with the third left trailing 12 lengths behind, over 2m 3f 110yds at Doncaster last time out, has conditions to suit today and should go well. Mounale Forte is the problem, but might prefer softer ground.

2.15: BELLATOR, who according to a popular school of thought, had been laid out all season for the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury last time, failed to do the business in that race but still looked short of peak fitness beforehand and ran quite well to finish 14%-lengths seventh to Sharpical. His trainer reckons he needs soft ground to be seen at his best but all his useful form last season was im a resilient surface and he should cope better than most here. Red Blazer is the clear pick on form but all his smart form has been on soft ground and he could start a false price.

2.45: COURT MELODY, o progressive staying chaser, was im-pressive when beating Destin D'Estruval by seven lengths in the 3m110yds Agfa Diamond Handi-cap Chase at Sandown in early February and improved again two weeks ago when beating McGregor The Third by five lengths off 6lb higher mark at Newbury over

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

nient handicap mark and will have 3m 2f 110yds. He goes well on good said of most of his rivals, the best of whom may be Strath Royal, admittedly a mud-lover and a doubtful stayer but in great form this season, notably when three-lengths second to General Wolfe in the 3m Peter Marsh Limited Handicap Chase here last time out.

KEMPTON 2.35: SHAHRUR showed an impressive turn of foot in winning the Lanzarote Hurdle over this course and distance and followed up on much quicker ground at Footwell on Monday. He has the best turns in the race but, if he lails to show his best on this fast surface. Circus Star may be the one to profit.

3.05: STORMY PASSAGE is im-proving fast and is more reliable than Green Green Desert who will like the ground conditions.

3.35: SIR TALBOT handled [ast ground on the Flat and can restore reputation dented by Triumph Hurdle second favourite City Hall.

Real Estate is the threat. 4.05: CHALLENGER DU LUC

ran the race of his life to be second to See More Business over this track and trip in the King George VI Chase and, although that was run on testing ground, he has form on this very different going. Snper Tactics is a course specialist but unproven at the trip.

4.40: This is the right ground and time of the year for BIMSEY, who has the improving Gysart and rehabilitated Buckhouse Boy to beat,

Haydock - 2.45

Call & A Day 6-1 13-2 6-1 6-1

Him Of Praise 7-1 13-2 6-1 7-1 Court Melody 9-1 9-1 11-1 9-1 Dom Samoural 10-1 N-1 12-1 70-1 Berth Statemen 12-1 71-1 10-1 11-1 Belmont King 14-1 12-1 12-1 14-1

Streith Royal

8-1 13-2 6-1 TT-2

6-1 13-2 6-1 13-2

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18 H - 8 M

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Pete of the favourites:	1988	89	90	81	92	93 P	94	95 _3_	96 P	97
Winner's place in bettin	or 1	D	D	1	D	0	1 <b>J</b>	<u> 21</u>	_ 2_	_2
Starting prices:		11-2	11-2	7-4	12-1	16-1	11-4	4:1	T-2	7-2
Winning spec:	7	10	В	11	10	6	8	10	_10_	8
Whining weights:	1010	101	104	tto	113	117	10.2	no	10,0	7.9
Profit or loss to £1 stat	os: Fay	ourfle	a -£1	13. Se	cond	Favo	urites	<u>+ 21.50</u>	<u> </u>	
Percentage of winners	placed	18t,	2nd o	3rd i	n lest	rece:	60%			
Shortest-priced winner	Twite (	Daks 1	-4 (19	91)						
Langest-priced winner:	Party	Politica	s 16-1	(18 <u>9</u> 5)						
Top trainer: G Richards	Rinus	(1990	& Tw	in Cal	s (199	0				
Two lockers his inches							he pas	1 10 ve	ars	

Hayd	ock -	. 1.15	
Hurse	Н	L	T
Yors SER:	9-2	5-1	9-2
Athonesia	11-2	5-1	5-1
Count Tony	TI-2	5-1	6-1
Kithride Luci	9-1	9-1	9-1
Marile 100	9-1	B-1	9-1
Suci Mad Bad	10-1	9-1	9-1
Sharp Temper	10-1	11-1	10-1
Barnkungh Boy	10-1	11-1	12-1
Separation	11-1	12-1	12-1
Coral Island	14-1	14-1	14-1
Kingdom Emperor	12-1	14-1	14-1
Model Hodel	16-1	16-1	14-1
Probin Miretral	25-1	20-1	20-1

C H L

41 72 72 41

12-1 14-1 16-1 16-1

16-1 24 24 10-1

Monnele Forts 2-1 11-4 11-4 9-4

Even Flow 3-1 11-4 11-4 11-4

Phylog Instructor 11-2 11-2 11-2 11-2

Clare Man 8-1 23-2 5-7 7-1

Eachway a quarter the odds, places, 1, 2 C - Coral H - Wilsom HE L - Lactoroles T - Total

Each way a quarter the odds, places.

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way 2 quart	ar the od	ds, places,	1.23	Each way a questo	y the co	kt. Ga	tes, 1, .	2.3
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Montrel	25-1	20-1		Lo Stregone	20-1	16-1	22-1	20-
erial Model	16-1	16-1	14-1	Ауго Аляоп	22-1	14-1	20-1	20-
уз Егурего	12-1	14-1	14-1	Shunagury	20-1	16-1	20-1	5-
lation d	14-1	14-1	14-1	Kendal Cavaller	20-1	- 6-1	5-1	20-
rishpieri.	11-1	12-1	12-1	Colonel in Chief	14-1	16-1	14-1	18-
urgh Boy	10-1	11-1	12-1	Mohthen Lad	14-1	14-1	2:1	13.
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3-1	3-1	11-4	3-1
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20-1	35-1	22-1	25-1
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Greenbeck 100-30, 5 ren. 14, 4 (Fl Ainer, Blandford Forum), Tote: \$190; \$150, \$350, DF: \$1940, CSF: \$2004 NRs: Not My Line,

Tidebrook.
4:50: 1. ANDANITO (R Durwoody) 10-11
4x; 2. Bigsound 11-70; 3. Printemps 65-1
10 ran. 8, 8. (Lady Herries, Luttehampton).
Totes: \$200: \$100. \$100. \$100. \$150. \$170. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$170. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150. \$150

SOUTHWELL

SOUTHWELL

2.20: 1. PATINA (P. M. OLITI) 5-2 lav; 2. Lucky Begonia 8-1; 3. Beau Roberto 18-14 ran. 21/s. sin-hd. (P. Molinshead). Tota: 13:30: E10: 53:70: E37. E37. E37. E37. E37. E37. Mr. SBOLO NF: Arcasas Lady.

2.56: 1. DANCING RID (C Lowther) 6-5 lav; 2. Cellic Comfort 9-4; 3. Kaile's Cracker 9-2 8 ran. 10 8: IP Haslard, Tota: CLG: E10. E190. DF: £2.77 CSF: E3.4.

3.25: 1. KASS ALHAWA (I. Chamock)

1-1; 2. Komasseph 8-1; 3. Rudia šavsk-

Results

HAYDOCK 2.00: 1. NATIVE CHARM (J.A McCarthy) 4-1: 2. Supreme Genotin 15-2, 3. Judicious Norman 15-2.8 ran. 11-8 tay Duke's Mount (4th), 7, 26 (C Morlock, Warriage), Tote: 54.50; £120, £150, £2.60 DF; £12.70, CSF; £3147 Tricas), £398.20. SLEO, SLEO, ELSO, EZSO, DF, ELZ70, CSF, EZ147 Tircast, E19920.

2.30: 1. DANA POINT (R Guest) 7-2 (t lav.)

2. Outset 7-2 (t lav.) 3. Camparign 9-2 9 ran.

1/4. (Mr. S Smith, Bridgey), Folie: 94-5): 5440.

EL70, EL80, DF, E730 CSF, E1879, Tircast; E199 Tircast; 270.

3.05: 1. DRUID'S BROOK (Mr. R Waktey)

6-1; 2. Martial Boy 7-2 (t lav.) 2. Sister Rosszs

13-2 10 ran, 7-2 (t lav.) Essen Blue (pulled up).

8-8 (K Bailey, Upper Lambourn), Iote: 0550;

12-20. EL70, E200, DF, E4470, CSF, E2637.

Tircast E21338 (no: E7250, NR; Swang Fountain).

tain.
3.35: 1. GREEN CRUSADER (R Thornton) 10-1: 2. Menshear 7-2 tav: 3. No More Hasse 7-1: 4. Falmouth Bay 33-1: 18 ran. 3. 9. (Mrs V Ward, Grantam) Tote: C1070: C220. C150. C210. C1250 DF: 64330 CSF: 54270. Thorsts: C26038. Tho: £8330 NR: Lond Richfield.

CEO. ELO. ELO. DF. C. 77 CSF: E3.4.

3.25: 1. KASS ALHAWA (L. Chamodd)

11-1; 2. Komaseph 10-1; 3. Rude Awakenting 6-1; 11 ran. 3-1 for Machren's Mirage(Sth); 3.4, (D. Chapman) Toise: EM-90; 28.50,

53.20, E3.60. DF: E44-50. CSF: £118.62. Tric252: £277/20. Tric: £258/40.

3.55: 1. PLEASURE TRICK (f0m Tinider)

3.15: 1. PLEASURE TRICK (f0m Tinider)

5-1; 2. Davis Rock 8-1; 3. Mr Paradise 2-1

fax 8 ran. 1½, hd. (Don E inces), Totae £940:

5-190, £280, £190. DF: 1000. CSF: £8521.

Tricset £1398, Tino: £2750. NF: Benitoo (f2-1)

to board proce only core. Pube 4 applies

4.30: 1. BUNNIES OWN (F1 Winston) 3-1;

2. Heathyarde Shell; 7-4 for; 3. Sky Moun
5-10, £100. DF: £300. CSF: £851. Tric:

5-500: 1. PICKENS Acc. Richfield.
4.10: 1. MADISON COUNTY (CLIewslyn)
10.30; 2. Share Options 3-2: 3. Ceitic Giant 9-1 & rim. 11-8 fav Jay/m (41): 5, 7, 6
Hobbin, Mirchard), Toter 54.20; 5180, 52.30
DF: SIBO CSF: SIBF 7. NF. Errespray,
4.40: 1. FANTASTIC FLEET (Mr. E.
Williams), 16-1; 2. Lord Relike event fav: 3.
Fiscal Policy 16-1 12 ram. 17. 11. (Mr. J. Webber, Criencester), Tote: 5110, 5270, 5120,
C300 DF: 5130 CSF: 5220 Trio: 58400.
NR, Fother Recotor: 5240 Trio: 58400.

C300 DF. C1130 CSF: C3240 Trio: S8400
NR. Father Rector.
5.10: 1. DANGEROUS GUEST (C
Lewelyn) 6-1; 2. Another Night 23-1; 3. One
Stop 33-1 fr ran. 3-1 av Stope Pass (unseased nder) 4, 23, 41 Old Wroughton) Tube:
C1800: S280, C850, C750, DF: C3210, CSFC18642. Trio: Not work NRs: Calus Caligula, So Keen
Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £5835.44 carried
forward to Haydock today.
Placepot: D5480 Quedpot: C400
Place 8: C722, Place 5: £1938

KEMPTON

2.10: 1. QUIET CONFIDENCE (Mr D
Alers-Hanles) 7-4: 2. Pontabuta 9-2: 3 ran.
Det. (K Kerley, Blandford Forum), Toke: 22:30.
DF: 23:00 CSF: 25:69 NRS: Repeat The Dose,
Teeton Mill
2.45: 1. KNIGHTSBRIDGE SCOT (N
Williamson) 8-5 fav: 2. Bessay 8-4; 3.
Quick Bowter 16-1, 7 ran. 8. 24 (Miss V
Williams, Hereford), Toke: 22:00: £1:90. £1:91.
3.15: 1. ELA AGAPI MOU IR Durwoodly 5-8: 2. Far Deven 11-4; 3. Rannersey
Peta 13-8 fav. 5 ran. Nr. 1½. (G I. Moora;
84:80. CSF: 25:98. Following a stewards' inquiry, Runnavey Pete was draqualified from
first and pleased third.
3.45: 1. NEARLY AN EYE (T J Murphy)
4.7 tay; 2. Blazzing Bestman 13-1.
2. F Nichols, Shepton Mallet). Toke: 25:40 DE:
£140. CSF: 21:80. Ris
2. Taylor Revenue.
4.20: 1. MRLLCROFT RIVERA (A Thomton) 6-5 fav; 2. Chernai Pastime 33-1: 3. KEMPTON

INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + KEMPTON 971 981 HAYDOCK 972 982 MUSSELBURGH 973 983 LINGFIELD 974 984 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

5.00: 1. PICKENS (Km Twider) 8-1: 2. Blooming Amazing 2-1 fav. 3. Northern Motio 12-1 19 ran. 16. 1/ [Don E Index]. Total Conf. C10. 52 70 DF: 6920 CSF: 52324. Thicast Fields Time 5.750. Placepot: \$22500 Quadpot: \$3880.

Place 6: £5528 Place 8: £2589.

2.20 TORRIE & CO MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m

5-630 VICTOR LASZLO (11) R AREA 8 11 7 ..... 5455 EASTERN PROJECT (14) M Harmond 4 to 11. Mr C Borow (3) BO HISEFINATE (25) JH Johnson 4 C m \_\_\_\_\_AB Son (3) TREASURE HELL (42) B Mactagrant 4 10 11 ....... S Taylor (3)

- 11 declared -SETTING: 7-4 Englann Project, 7-2 Ambyds, 5-1 Victor Laszlo, 6-1 Hibertale, 6-1 Seguiz, 8-1 My Busto, 25-1 Silver Howe, Transure Hill, 33-1 others 2.50 DOWN ROYAL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m

and the second of the second o

1 ESS: WATUPIEL (14) (CD) CPSTOR 11 DD.\_\_\_\_\_ BSIONY 2 22222 THEATER BUDGET (THO) (D) (BF) Dearne Sayer II II 13

5.00 EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY TURF CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) 53,500

BETTING: 5-2 Fool A Line, 3-1 Reeds, 9-2 Moneco, 5-1 Sent Valley, 5-1 Heroniert, 16-1 Donton Led, 16-1 Fortuna Hopper, 20-1 Haver Golf Charmer

# Time is money for the master punter

لمكذا من ألاصل

After his successful foray into court lack Ramsden is ready to return to what he does best. Richard Edmondson reports

Action to the control of the control

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20th

WHILE he has been in court this past mooth, Jack Ramsdeo's erudite maooer and perching of spectacles nn his nose have led to many referring to him as owlish. There are several, the Sporting Life team included, who could imagine the shadow of a much larger hird of prey being cast over the courtroom.

If Ramsden' has had the talons out for his opponents this past mnnth, the sparrow has been his wife, Lynda. Wheo he talked of her unswerving honesty and righteousoess after Thursday's adjudication, there were echoes of nther descriptions in the very same court, where once there was comment nn the "fragrance" of a participant's wife.

Jack and Lynda Ramsden first met over 20 years ago when she worked at the Epsom yard of Jnhn Sutcliffe Snr. where Jack, one of Barry Hills's first owners, had horses. Ramsden was working in the City, but the City wasn't working for him. "I was a pretty useless stockbroker," he admitted this

Jack doesn't settle for being even a little useless at anything and, after the couple married in 1977, the Ramsdens embarked as trainers in the Isle Of Man. Their horses had tn embark as well, sailing no vessels that took them over the Irish Sea to do battle no the British mainland.

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Jack became an nfficial nf the Manx Turf Authority and official handicapper, and then he became bored with the insularity of his surroundings. After sconting around the north of England, the Ramsdens found what seemed little more than wasteland with a few shacks in North Ynrkshire at Sandhuttoo. About the nnly physical advantage was a private 12 pop-up sprayers per furlong from whom he receives £5,000 on Breckenborough House's gallnps. The stahles, which have boxes to house up to 52 hnrses, are regarded as noe of the most lavish oorth of the

Ramsden's punting prowess price. sooo started to attract great attention: It is ont known how many of the grand betting stories about him are true, hut it is certainly the case that the higbookmakers quickly clused down his accounts. And it was nnt because he had gooe over any pre-arranged limit.

those said to make a living from mooth. What did escape them,



this sort of speculation, is a devotee of speed figures. He while a good horse is capable nf doing a bad time, no bad hnrse is capable nf doing a good time. He has his own computer formula for evaluating speed a year for "advice on horses".

In addition to this arrangeput nn for him (eveo Robert Sangster has helped out) to pro- to fullow over the last two tect his anooymity and the years.

Ramsden does oot hoast about his punting skills, but then again he is not shy about nffering thnughts about the turf wheo required. Those that do not like the man think him a hit of a cleverclogs.

That he is clever and selfconfident will not have escaped Ramsden, like several of members of the jury this past

considered locking his eyes works on the premise that into those of the jurors a bad idea. When asked about his specialist subject in the chair he. said, without modesty, it was British Flat racing.

It can be said that Ramsden figures. He also has his own is not bragging unduly. He is that the yard's representatives per's point of view, he has nfment, Ramsdeo also has bets fered four winners from fnur

> cards about Master Charter, who on his reappearance duly won a 20-runner handicap at 6-1 before going no to win at Pootefract and Newmarket, the vard to the press. and Sujud, whn won over hur-Epic Stand, whose subsequent

however, was Jack's gaze, as he Nottingham, Doocaster and Pootefract (at 12-1).

The gradual stacking of the Ramsdeo tales, however, has built up into a situation where just about all the stable's runners are now monitured rather carefully. While it may be true isation of Breckeohornugh House has become excessive.

What is certain is that the when asked for stable horses Ramsdens get disproportionate criticism for their runners, while there are others, better con-In 1996 Jack marked our occted to the sport's hierarchy, who escape such scrutiny. This has constructed an atmosphere of deep mistrust, towards the Ramsdens themselves and from

"Ynu chaps [the media] dles. Last year he put us on to keep feeding them [the public] these lines, and there are inthree victories included one at nuendos in the papers about a 10-1 in a 25-runner handicap, Int of nur runners," Jack said and Fame Again, who won at after Thursday's adjudicatinn.

The mooey is not everything. It's nice, hut the main thing is it sends a message out that our horses are trying to win and we're trying to do the best for our owners. The betting is sec-

The notoriety of the yard is higgest crooks in the game," he said in an interview with The Inaependent. "The people in au-

Ramsdens were dishonest." The people in the jury box, and Lynda Ramsden will oow go about their work once again, and it would be churlish to say their presence is not a fascinating element of the British turf. For how long it will continue is open in debate.

The documentation shows

that Jack Ramsden is 56, and although his appearance suggests he is 10 years younger, he

is no longer a youth. The Ramsdens have almost packed np befnre, in 1991, when Jack could not get bets on and the yard was not making a evident from the words of great deal of money. On the bore hole, which now serves the bookmaker in Colin Webster, and a creature of the dark and have fully exploited the rules of Kiereo Fallon. "Before I went court fringes this week, the will happily volunteer his ideas racing in the past, the demoo- in the Ramsdens I used to be- couple said that if the case was lieve what I read about the hig lost they would ont he speakgambles and stopping horses, ing to the press for 12 months. that they were possibly the and after that freeze they could oot be sure they would still he around.

The Ramsdens have great thority wanted to prove the contacts in South Africa, a holiday destination before the trial started almost four weeks however, begged to differ. Jack ago. If they feel a sense of persecution continoes following the High Court trial it would ont be astounding to see their caravan following the route of the Voortrekkers. Some would miss Jack Ramsden. Others might have a different atti-

### Strath Royal to stop the Nicholls roll

TRAINERS do not always react well to criticism, but the warning a few weeks ago from Greenalls, sponsors of today's hig race at Haydock, that their support was in doubt if the quaiity of the turnout did nnt pick up seems to have worked wonders. Sixteen horses will go to post for the Greenails Grand National Trial, the richest handicap chase of the year so far, and more valuable than any handican chase bar the National at Aintree itself. If the sponsors are not satisfied with this, there can be no pleasing them.

Bookmakers and punters too will be delighted, assuming that all the declarations go to post and a late con-runner does not deny each-way backers a return for fourth place. This is a fascinating and open race, and it will be a surprise if the favourite - whatever it may be - goes off any sharter than 4-1, but such is the quality in the field too that it is hard to imagine a rank outsider upstaging all the fancied runners.

Perhaps the most interesting runner is Dun Belle, whn appeared to excel herself when chasing home Dorans Pride in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Leopardstown last time out. Pat Fahy, her trainer, resents any accusation that this was a fluke, however, and since Dun Belle also has impressive novice form to her credit against both Dorans Pride and See More Business, he probably has a point.

The worry about Dun Belle, however, is her ability to handle today's sound surface, and Fahy admits that bottomless going, similar to that wheo he won the same race three years ago with Nuaffe, would assist her cause considerably. There must also be a question mark against Him Of Praise, who threw away a valuable race at Uttoxeter last time, and Earth Summit, who did not reproduce confirm the good impression he his Welsh National-winning

The chnice comes down to Court Melody, who bids to extend Paul Nicholls's sequence of big-race winners on Saturday into a fifth week, and STRATH ROYAL (nap 2.45), who is well handicapped for a horse with several wins already this season and gets the vote in the expectation that his first attempt at three and a half miles will bring further improvement.

Haydock may be on to a winner with their big race today, but the effects seem to have been felt a couple of hundred miles away at Kempton, where the field for the Racing Post Chase is a bitter disappointment. Challenger Du Luc, whn finished second to See More Business in the King George VI Chase

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: My Shenandoah (Musselburgh 4.30) **NB: Dun Beile** (Haydock 2.45)

over course and distance at Christmas, is the likely favourite, but 5-2 nr so is very short for a horse who always looks sure to win two out but invariably fails to dn so.

Alternatives are thin on the ground, however, assuming that punters want a harse with good recent form, and nnly Jibber The Kibber (4.05) makes much appeal as a solid bet. Elsewhere on the card, the expected re-routing of Edelweis Du Mnulin to Haydock is good oews for Stormy Passage (3.05) in the Pendil Trophy Novice Chase, although he has been known to break blood vessels and is one to treat with caution.

The juvenile hurdle is also difficult with any amount of improvement possible in most of the runners, but the equivalent event at Haydock, the Victor Ludorum Hurdle, may fall to Torn Silk (oext best 1.15), a former runner-up in the Irish Cesarewitch. Bellator (2.15) also deserves one more chance to made in the William Hill Handicap Hurdle back in December.

#### murphy banned for six days

the Festival highlight nn 19 missed the Gold Cup.

form last time out.

Timmy Murphy, rider of Chel- March. Murphy was found tenham Gold Cup favourite guilty of irresponsible riding nn See More Business, received a Runaway Pete and suspended six-day ban at Kemptoo yes- from 9 to 14 March. Had the terday - but will be back to part- suspensino beeo for a whip ofoer Paul Nicholls's gelding in fence, Murphy would have

#### Him Of Praise can raise the roof

The former National Hunt jockey Steve Smith Eccles (right) gives a runner-by runner analysis of today's Greenalls Grand National Trial Chase.

ground last time, but hoping

for better conditions here.

Earth Summit: Winner of

this season's Welsh Nation-

al. He needs soft ground tn

Nahthen Lad: The further he

goes, the better he is. He has

shaped up nicely and de-

serves annther chance after

pulling up on his last nuting.

Avro Anson: Likes fast

ground and will strip fitter for

his seasonal reappearance

in December. However, he

has not sparkled over fences

Lo Stregone: Hard to see him figuring in the finish nn his

Strath Royal: Has been in

great form, running second in

the Peter Marsh Chase over

this course. Sure to run well.

Call It A Day: A good second

to Ottowa in the Singer &

Dorans Pride in the Hennessy

Gold Cup at Leopardstown.

A repeat performance would

as he did over hurdles.

seasonal reappearance.

be at his best.





**GREG WOOD** THE A-Z OF BETTING

X is for ...

x: The symbol in a Timeform black bonk which denotes a poor jnmper. They are very fond of symbols up in Halifax, the most famous of them being the Timeform squiggle, a strange little hieroglyph which indicates that a horse is deficient in the hravery department. One step beyond that is the double squiggle, meaning that the animal in questino is, io Timeform's wnoderfully florid phrase, "an arrant rogue nr a thorough jade". If the horse was human, it would prohably sue, but the good judges in Yorkshire do not dish nut double squiggles lightly, and it is a rare horse that manages in prove them wrong.

Xenophobia: A nasty word for a very nasty habit, hut nue

most betting circles that anynot English (and for the purposes of prejudice, that includes the Americans) is a hopcless, untrustworthy incompetent. The most novious targets for bigotry have always beeo the French. In the late 1970s and 1980s, admittedly, Freddie Head did little to uphuld the gond oame nf French hnrsemanship nn his annual trip tn Epsom to ride a well-fancied horse in the Derby. There was, for instance, the unfortunate mo- Xaar: Whn has yet to contest meot on Lyphard wheo he a Classic but already has a very seemed to forget that the special place in the heart of X marks the spot.

least be starting to kick, side of the road, and when the Throughoot much of the his- rest of the runners turned left tnry nf gamhling in Britain, it at the bottnm of the hill. has been takeo as read in Freddie went right. In the last season or two, however, a nne whose mnther tongue is French jockey has emerged who has claims to be the finest nn the planet, in the shape nf Olivier Peslier. British punters now latch on m Olivier withnut a second thnught, and he has rewarded their faith - at geocrous odds, too - oo any oumber of occasions. The great irooy in all thia, of course, is that there has not been an English champion jockey on the Flat since Lester Piggott in 1982.

which British punters may at British drive oo the apposite any juurnalist compiling a X-Files: All those weird and utweekly feature with an A-to-Z theme. To date, no horse whose name begins with X has won a British Classic, while all of the remaining 25 letters in the alphabet can uffer at least noe. The Z was the most recent one to join the club, wheo Zafonic woo the 2,000 Guineas, and of course Zafonic is - spooky, this - the sire of Xaar. André Fabre's colt is painfully short in the ante-post market, but oo-one could argue with his brilliant success in the Dewhurst Stakes last October, a performance which was every bit as impressive as his father's in the same race in 1993. As far as long-range betting nn the Guineas goes, it is difficult oot to think that

terly inexplicable events down the years, almost all of which - ecrier and eerier - seem to result in bookmakers getting richer. Most famous of all is probably Devon Loch's decision to do the splits with the 1956 Grand National at his mercy, when every loyal subject in the country (and there were actually quite a few of them in those days) had their cash no the Queen Mum's runner. While the famous Royal cologis floundered near the furlong pole, ESB galloped past to snatch a miraculous victory. The truth is out there - and it seems to be that the patroo saint nf bookies is a mean old bruiser who can eat the patron saint of punters for breakfast.

#### Lingfield

HYPERION 1.35 Comeoutofthefog 2.10 Libra Star 2.40 Steamroller Stanly 3.15 Just Loui 3.45 Philisatr 4.20 Master Caster

GOING: Slow (All-weather track). STALLS: Im - outside; rest - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best 5f & 6t. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best 5f 6 ft.

@Equitack surface; left-hend, sharp undulating course.

@Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by Lon-@Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by Lon-©Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station particularly don, Victorie) adjoins course. ADMISSION: 210 (accompanied under 18s free). CAR PARK: Club E3; rest free.

EADMORTRAMERS: GL Moore 79-67n (29%), M Johanton 51-26 (129%), R Hennon 47-340 (139%). Lord Hamiltonion 40-210 (19%). [179%), R Hennon 47-340 (139%). Lord Hamiltonion 40-210 (19%). GLADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 70-568 (129%), B Sendars & LaDING JOCKEYS: A Clark 70-568 (129%), B Sendars SS-543 (109%), G Whithworth 51-341 (19%), O Herrison 41-335 (122%). GFAVOURITES: 709-2134 (332%). VISORED FIRST TIME: Denzino, Omen's Odyssey (420).

1.35 TAURUS CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) 53,000 added 3YO 1m 

#### 5 0-5040 ESTOPPED (8) M Cultri 88.... 8 000-80 TAUREAN (26) N Graham 81... 7 000-6 RUTHS GEM (19) D Thom 80. ....R Fhynch 4 lecton O'Shee 7 - 7 declar BETTING: 11-8 Emperor's Gold, 13-8 Co en, 33-1 others 2.10 PISCES MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) 23,000 added 3YO 1m

W Ryun 7 ....C Lowther (5) 1 .......... K Felion 5 302- DI MACTEO (173) B Harbury 9.0 ..... MISS BUSSELL (119) B His 89. 8 SECRET HARMONY (51) V Some 89...

- 6 declared - - 8 ETTING: 5-4 Libra Star, 13-4 Mins Bussell, 9-2 Di Matino, 10-1 Washins, 12-1 Mac's Back, 29-1 Secret Hermony, Porthill Buoy, Gold Park, 33-1 Zig-2.40 RAPPORTEUR STAKES (CLASS C) £7,750 added 1m 2f

2.74U 27,750 BOUGHT 1111 AT 108-1 STEMBROLLER STAME (18) (CD) C Cont 58 % G Cotter 4 10-21 WHITE PLANS (8) (CD) K Buris 59 % K Failor 5 3840 HEVER GOLF GLORY (186) T J Naughton 49 7 Rectand Moody (7) 2

#### 00000/ OLIESTAN (Jorg 8 Smart 68 7 ... 00002- STATE FAIR (138) 8 His 4 9 7 ... 0211-1 GRALMANO (23) (C) N Litmode - E declared -TTHQ: 5-4 Steamroller Stonly, 5-2 State Fair, 7-2 Genimeno, 7-1 White ha, 10-1 Hever Golf Glory, 33-1 Queelan

3.15 GEMINI HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,000 added of 

Dece Chieff 6 B

- B declared

- B declared

Prophole, 19-1 Sharp Imp. Robo Magic, 12-1 Science Aldge, 14-1 Ukra
Beel, 18-1 Shaintsyrioly

98714 URSA MAJOR (10) (CD) C Alen 4 10 8 \_\_ R Studbolme (7) 10 -1823 PLAN FOR PROFIT (17) (CD) (6F) M Johnston 4 9 13.\_\_\_\_ 1310-0 MP NEVERNOND (23) (CD) G.I. Moore 8.9 10 ........ K Fallon 7

3.45 CAPRICORN HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,750 added 1m

BETTING: 13-6 Menter Caster, 5-2 Dezzino, 13-2 Countel, 8-1 Omer's Odyseny, 16-1 Little Emily, Jako Descue, 12-1 Leet Knight, 14-1 Tiggy Silveno, 20-1 Sammy's Stuttle, 33 St. Of A Led

# 

— 16 declared — BETTNG: 3-1 Phillister, 9-2 Super Momerch, 5-1 Urse Major, Plen For Prof-n a. r Restauren, 10-1 Mr Movembrd, Jodické Supremery, Swill, 12-1 Refuser 4.20 LEO HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 3YO 1m 2f

Court Melody: His trainer. Paul Nicholls, is on fire and so is this horse, winning his

put him in the frame.

Belmont King: His form fig- Antonin: Now trained in Ireures are not inspiring but the land, but has not sparkled this trainer is enjoying a purple season patch and reports his horse Him Of Praise: Seemed to in fine fettle. Pulled up in soft

idle in front nn his last outing but should run a big race with the first-time visor in place. Well handicapped and the mount of the Irish champion jockey, Charlie Swan. Into The Red: A great old campaigner who is having his first ruo of the year. He will probably oeed it, too. Shanagarry: Useful no his day but inconsistent.

Colonel In Chief: Badly hampered and pulled up on his latest start. That run is best ignnred and he could be in the firing line.

Dom Samourai: Second to Ottowa in the Jnhn Hughes Chase last Saturday. Looks a hard ride and his jockey will certainly earn his corn. Kendal Cavalier: Although in good form, winning his last two races, be is over a stone

Friedlander National Trial Conclusion: Foot horses at Uttoxeter. He will probashould dominate this, inbly go to post as favourite and cluding Call It A Day, who is the one they have to beat. Dun Belle: Runner-up to

out of the handicap.

is the one they must beat. Him Of Praise, who was just behind him at Uttoxeter. should fare better in the headgear, while Strath Royal dnes not know how to run a bad race. The Irish raider Dun Belle comes into the reckoning, but I expect HIM last two starts. Likes fast OF PRAISE to show them all ground and is sure to run well. a clean pair of hooves.



ROWBOTTOM

ON TRAGEDY AND SPORT

of a sports journalist's life. I couldn't number the times. for instance, that I have hesitated over a curled-up egg or tuna sandwich at post-match buffets, calculating potential risks involved - indigestion, perhaps even a touch of food poisoning.

More often that not, it was a risk I was prepared to take. On other occasions, I have attended outdoor events without wearing a scarf. Believe me, Wrong. Two dead, 111 inwhen the wind turns chilly, that jured.

can feel like a risk too far. But 1 suppose, in a funny kind of way, one becomes almost hlasé about such hazards. They go with the territory.

That territory, remember, is a land where tragedy is an own goal and 5-0 is a massacre. In such a context, the whiff

RISK-TAKING-hey, it's all part - however faint - of real peril explain but couldn't ignore. In marking out the spread of shrapthe ones who are supposed to

> ago, there was more than one Gulf War veteran in the nearby press centre who first dismissed it as no more than an amplifier blowing in one of Centennial

Like many thousands of oth- standers. ers, I had wandered through

Centennial Park earlier that night. When the explosion octhat at that exact moment I sat

tends to concentrate the mind fact, it was not until four in the nel with little flags. wonderfully. War reporters are morning that I was roused by a phone call from home. Blunthe Atlanta Olympics 18 months nalists watching CNN television reports of the international in-

> own back yard. very thoroughly covered. The only useful thing to do was to try dreaming that someone was sitand talk to shocked, or perhaps merely inconvenienced, by-

Having reached the press centre by circumventing a few road blocks, I went up to the restaurant which directly over-It would be good to report looked the site of the explosion. By the dawn light, the blackbolt upright, preternaturally tracksuited men of the Federal troubled by something I couldn't Bureau of Investigation were

A strange and, yes, frightening sight. The kind of sight that deal with the real stuff, not us. dering out of the campus. I made you think the world might me. Feeling faintly ridiculous. I When the bomb went off at passed a group of 15 or so jour- actually be a worrying, threatening, impredictable place,

That thought returned to cident which had occurred in its me last Saturday morning, while I was at the winter Olympics in The news angle was being Japan. Once again, dynamically, I was in bed. Asleep. And ting on my bed, shaking, shaking shaking it for no sensible

> Half awake, I wondered if the intensely apologetic cleaning mine was shut... Oh, well. ladies who regularly woke me up to dust my television, reorientate my paper bin and change my eets had become exasperated by my torpor and taken matters

Nope. No cleaning ladies. I got up, feeling more than usually alert and ready for the day. But something still troubled stared hard at the legs of my bed. Steady as a rock.

A quick mental inventory of the previous night's drinks revealed nothing extraordinary.

Looking up, I noticed the lampshade swinging vigorously from side to side, the little string which led from its centre tapping against the sides.

Perhaps, I thought, someone had left a door open. Although

It was only when I went to the central press canteen that the correct explanation presented itself. "Did you feel the shake?" I was asked. "They're saying it was 5.0 on the Richter Scale."

A colleague based in Tokyo added that he had leapt out of and got under the door frame no means unlikely event of an -a location which apparently offers maximum protection in the event of a building collapsing

around one. I tried to comfort myself with this thought, but - obscurely

- it made things worse. Back in my seventh floor room, having given the structure of my doorway a thorough scrutiny, my eye was caught by the strident warnings concerning the abuse of furniture which I had read with such amusement

upon my arrival. It struck me as odd that I should have been informed of times. the potential danger of situating my table less than 10 centimetres from the wall - thus en-

couraging the growth of moulds and bacteria - hut not told about safety procedure in the by

But then I thought - would that have helped? What could I have done anyway - remembered to say my prayers every

Ten years ago, covering a Northern Ireland football match, I was booked in to stay overnight at the Europa Hotel

in Belfast. The match ended in a draw; the occasion passed off without incident or alarm. Only after I got back did I hear that the Europa had been bombed 16

Still long odds, admittedly. But sometimes it is better not to

# Pressure mounts on **Keast and** Kingston

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

BOB DWYER and Brian Ashat the moment hut their august the periphery of the English game is causing any amount of Harlequin history. discomfort in Premiership coaching circles. Neither Andy Keast nor John Kingston, who occupy the hot seats at Harleattracted a dreaded vote of urgent need of a high-profile

victory or three. Dwyer and Ashton joined the ranks of the unemployed during an outhreak of musical Matt Dawson against Gary 12 days ago after a flurry of against Alan Tait at centre—that cloak-and-dagger activity while Ireland hade farewell to their is guaranteed. increasingly frustrated former Bath coach on Tuesday. Significantly, both men have indicat- but the Saints came as close as ed their interest in taking on any to turning them over three new roles at Premiership level.

of exiled Welshmen and south- a lasting impression on Ryan, ern hemisphere exotics have the Newcastle captain, and in his home advantage against Sara- forthright fashion, he will de-Ditter Con quarter final and the word on the London street suggests that a heavy Sarries win might lead to all sorts of Ground. Richmond have son and even though Philippe Sella, the great French centre, misses the game with concus-Constable to midfield and recalling the in-form Richard Wallace on the left wing. Harlequins, meanwhile, visit

a Bath side struggling to overcome a calamitous injury list Premiership is not so much red that has deprived them of their entire Heineken Cup-winning ic, but it rumbled on just the same back row. On paper, Quins have a perfect opportunity to record a first-ever league victory at the Recreation Ground something that would ease August than Cliff Brittle, chair-Keast's anxiety and spike the man of the RFU management theory that Zinzan Brooke's im- board, "categorically refuted" minent arrival from New Zealand has more to do with sion had been made.

iob-hunting than house-hunting. However, the Londoners Thierry Lacroix, the French stand-off - Roh Liley gets

Sheasby's return to the back row following his "reverse transfer" from Wasps, Bath are running so bot at the moment that another defeat, their sixth in seven outton may not be unduly busy just ings since the late autumn, is an ominous possibility. If it happens, and authoritative presence on Keast will have presided over the worst run of league results in

There is no such neurotic nail-hiting at either Northampton or Newcastle, who meet this afternoon in what promises to quins and Richmond, have yet be the most thunderous Cup quarter-final for some time. confidence from their respective Both Ian McGeechan and Rob chairmen, but both men are in Andrew have their sides in tiptop condition and the contest is so lavishly garnished with interpersonal conflicts - Tim Rodber against Dean Ryan at No 8, chairs over the last fortnight; the Armstrong at scrum-half, Paul ever-insular Leicester board Grayson against Andrew at sacked their Australian maestro stand-off, Gregor Townsend a Franklins Gardens full house

an English side this season, weeks ago before going down Kingston's polyglot hlend 21-17. However, that game left from his side this afternoon.

We won't be found wanting," he promised yesterday. "The last same was recity inramifications at the Athletic tense and it was played at as high a level as you ever encounter in already lost twice to their title- the club game. But Cup ties have chasing hig city rivals this sea- a habit of lifting the intensity still further." With Rodher, the Northampton skipper, confirming that his side had trained sion, the visitors can minimise in a particularly physical fashion the disruption by moving Ryan this week, the stage is set for a red-raw fight to the finish.

The on-going argument between the professional clubs and the Rugby Football Union over the make-up of next season's raw as mind-numhingly soporifyesterday. No sooner had the English Rugby Partnership confirmed its intention to expand both divisions to 14 teams from any suggestion that a final deci-

"Any valid decision to increase the number of clubs must again make do without must be considered and agreed by the RFU," said Brittle. "ERP's statement is inaccuanother outing in the linchpin rate and misleading." When, oh position - and despite Chris when, will it ever end



Newcastle have yet to lose to Mike Brewer pruned three-quarters of West Hartlepool's squad on arrival at Brierton Lane. 'Everything has been geared towards promotion,' he says

fortur-

with

# Brewer brewing up a storm way out West

TO almost any other figure in world rugby, the task of restorcens in this afternoon's Tetley's mand a massive physical effort ing West Hartlepool's top-drawer status might have seemed more trouble than it was worth; the sporting equivalent, perof convincing potential advertisers that Channel 5 really exists, or talking Saddam Hussain into joining Amnesty International. You get the impression, though, that Mike Brewer could sell arrows to Sitting Bull and communism to Ronald Reagan. An impressive figure? Hell, yes.

He enjoys a challenge, too. Any man with sufficient front to walk out on an All Black World Cup party, square up to New Zealand rugby's "Auckland Mafia" at the height of its power and tell Dr Louis Luyt of South Africa to go put a sock in it possesses a certain cachet. Brewer wielded a very hig stick during his playing days south of the equator and now he has his size 12s under the table in the Allied Dunbar Premiership, he is beginning to wield it here.

Eight months ago, West were dead in the water, relegated from the top flight last season after losing 19 of their 22 league encounters, they were hruised, battered, brassed off and stony broke. The sight of their nearest neighbours, New-

hemisphere mettle into the fallen pride of the North-east, today's Cup rivals for Sale surroundings of Sir John Hall's implement a cut of around 75 eight of the Tetley's Bitter Cup. bank account did little to light- per cent on the first-team This afternoon, they host Sale I was playing open-side flanker. en the Brierton Lane John squad." The demons let loose by pro-

another victim. Enter Brewer, who had been working with the Irish national team while pursuing a proper career as a marketing manager with Canterbury, the New Zealand-based clothing and sportswear giant. Within weeks, he had presided over a root-and-hranch restructuring of the club along cut-throat professional and commercial lines. installing two fellow directors to look after sales and finance and himself as a general managertype figure with responsibility for all things rugby and a decisive input into just about every-

thing else. "Then," he recalls, "it was time to look at the players. I not only nine full-time professiononly had to identify who was up to it and who wasn't, but I also of them earning what Brewer had to work out who might be capable of competing effectively amongst the hig boys in en them to third in Premiership a New Zealand Universities Premiership One. I have to confess that I made most of my Scottish but with a game in hand judgements on the basis of and a far more sympathetic video evidence, which was far run-in. More to the immediate

Just the 75 per cent? Was "Bruiser", as Brewer is known fessionalism had claimed back home in the south island, getting soft in his old age? Not likely. His extensive contacts in the southern hemisphere bore immediate fruit as he lured the Western Samoan scrum-half, Tu Nu'uali'ita, and the former Vile, to the North-east. Others have followed - Mark Giacheri, the Italian Test lock, and Philippe Farner, a French second row with Super 12 experience - and with the coach himself now starting to play again at 33, West have a formidable look about them.

So formidable, indeed, that they are unbeaten at home since August, despite having als on their playing staff, none dismisses as "daft money". It is a transformation that has tak-Two, a point adrift of London castle, houristing in the opulent from ideal, but I saw enough to point, it has put them in the last

in an encounter that brings another former All Black No &, John Mitchell, glowering across

the Pennines. We go back a fair way, John and I, and we're good mates," Brewer said. "We played against each other regularly when he was with Waikato and I was with Otago. It'll be Auckland stand-off, Steven a lot of fun seeing him today, especially as no one at West regards this as a win-at-all-costs sort of occasion. Everything has been geared towards promotion, so the Cup is a nice little extra, a chance for our players to go out there against a top side and give it a real lash without worrying about the ramifications of it all."

Oh, yeah? Never trust an All Black who claims not to care about the result of a rugby match. Especially one as ferociously competitive and strongwilled as Brewer, who first came to England in 1986 with side boasting Sean Fitzpatrick and David Kirk before returning a year later with what quickly emerged as a seminal NZ

"Yep, that was some team. with Michael Jones at No 8 and Alan Whelton at blind-side. In essence, it was the backbone of the side who would go on to win the first World Cup later that year. Unfortunately from my point of view, I didn't make it to the tournament. I'd taken a and although no one realised it at the time, the force of it split

my pelvis. The pain grew steadi-

ly worse and cost me my chance. "My withdrawal from the 1991 World Cup squad was very different. I'd been struggling with a foot problem that was just coming right in time for the tournament but a couple of days hefore we were due to fly to England, I was ordered to prove my fitness by jumping on and off a stool without any strapping, 1 said: "Look, I'd be strapped for a game, so why can't I be strapped for this?" The coaches wouldn't budge, so I walked out and resumed play-National Provincial Championship that year."

hun the All Black captaincy in complete.

Chris Hewett meets the disciplinarian former All Black who is installing some southern 1992 - so it was no great surprise that on arrival at Brierton Lane. he made a monumental virtue of his obsession with physical conditioning. "We do anything up to 30 sprints of 100 metres plus in a single assistance while some of the other English coaches laugh at me for insisting on so much running, I'd say we're the fittest side in our division by a distance.

"What is rugby about at its most basic? It's about running kick in the back in France in '86 and aerobic endurance. I remember Jim Blair [the Aucklander now in charge of fitness at Bath] once saying that you didn't need to run to get fit for rugby. We had a huge argument about that Running is absolutely fundamental to this

So, too, is tactical awareness, man management and motivational expertise. Brewer is on top of them all, hence the recent approaches from his former provinces, Otago and Canterbury. He will almost certainly return, perhaps to challenge for the silver fern succession. "That. though, is in the medium to long term," he insists. "At the moment, ing for Otago. We won the I'm happy running an English club on a day-by-day basis."

By the time he finishes, the Injury continued to plague All Blackification of a reinvig-Brewer - a torn calf muscle cost orated rugby backwater will be

# Castleford may test tactical options which Edwards has brought to Bulls

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

made fewer changes in personnel than any club over the win-Challenge Cup tie at Castleford assess one significant addition.

last season that it hardly mat- position against whom sheer tered that they knew only one way to play. When Plan A works as well as it did - at least against BRADFORD BULLS have domestic opposition - there is

not much call for Plan B. The recruitment of a master ter, hut today's Silk Cut craftsman like Shaun Edwards gives them a series of alternais the first serious opportunity to tive strategies stretching deep

power might not be enough. Edwards' arrival - and the

appointment of Graeme Bradley as captain - frees the mercurial Robbie Paul from make the New Zealander all the more dangerous.

into the alphabet - and Castle- last two years will be wary of London Broncos' Mark Carroll Bradford were so dominant ford show signs of becoming op- Cas, especially after the way and Grant Young on one side

they hung in to beat Leeds in and Halifax's Karl Harrison and Young they have the most injury time in the last round.

The Castleford coach, Stuart Raper, recalls his hooker, Richard Russell, in place of Danny Ort and may give a deother responsibilities and will but to Danny Ellison, the

winger signed from Wigan. At The Stoop the front-The beaten finalists for the row confrontation between

and Kelvin Skerrett on the other rather gives the lie to the contention that modern rugby league is a game in which props are all converted second

The tie will be the first test of Broncos' jibes about "Northern softies" and their boast that they will out-muscle the opposition this season. Certainly, in Carroll

physically imposing front row in Britain - and Carroll has a particular reason for wanting to go to Wembley. On his last visit there, as a member of Australia's World Cup-winning side in 1995, he hid a pair of his custom-made, size 15 hoots in the stadium, with the intention of reclaiming them on the day of the Cup final,

St Helens have also left their sides should be too strong for mark on Wembley over the last their opponents. Hull and two years, but will find Warrington a sterner proposition

Australian brothers will be in opposition at Widnes, with their prop forward, Kylc White, facing the Salford scrum-half, Josh. That is one of a number

Sheffield face the amateurs of Ellenborough and Egremont than of late in this afternoon's and it is difficult to imagine Wigan being any more extended at Dewsbury, even though they will be without Henry Paul. The New Zealander has a calf injury and will be replaced of ties in which Super League dock taking over at scrum-half.

# Master of the dressing-room expletive revealed in Hitlerian rant of 'the Scally Messiah'



CHRIS MAUME

SPORT ON TV

SWEARING in football doc- f\*\*\*\*\* form. That's f\*\*\*\*\* umentaries has become a bit of as cliché, but it must be said that managers really are masters of the art. John Sitton, then Leyton Orient's co-manager, performance a couple of years ago, but Peter Reid, in charge at Sunderland, isn't very far behind, as he demonstrated in Premier Passions (BBC2), the first of a five-parter following the Wearsiders through an anguished 1996-97 season.

I was sent a preview tape that consisted of clips from the series as a whole, which concertinaed the entire miserable seasoo into 35 minutes. In the dressing-room after a 2-0 home defeat to Wimbledon, Reid, "the scally Messiah", as the scene, in the boardroom, the

shite, that is," he said, "and it's not about f\*\*\*\*\* tactics, and their being great players, it's about f\*\*\*\*\* arsehole, which Leyton Orient's co-manager, they've got more of on the gave a magnificent, peerless free-edgy. So free-edge on with it." The camera rests on a couple of faces, drained with their unrewarded effort. Paul Bracewell, who has never been accused of shirking, looks on with an empty, desolate gaze, the look of a man who has nothing more to give but whose all was not eoough. That's where these fly-on-the-wall se-

مكذا من ألاصل

they're at their most intrusive. Knowing what happens in the end lends an air of dramatic irony to some sequences. In one script refers to him was in fine hankers are heing taken for the coronary care unit. For-

ries are at the strongest - when

through the cluh's finances, and at one point, after Reid has the end. In the next game Sunsaid he's oot the kind of manager who gets caught up in auctions, one of the financiers asks him if that might mean that Sunderland will simply be left behind by the clubs who will pay silly money. "I take your point," he says, "but if you look at Boro. Coventry, Southampton, West Ham, who've paid that, we'll finish higher than them." Oops. He was right about Middlesbrough, hut that was all

Later on, as the drop draws a f\*\*\*\*\* about losing, but I'll ever closer, you feel deeply for tell you what I give a f\*\*\*\*\* him. In a relegation six-pointer against Nottingham Forest, there's a two-shot of Reid and his Forest counterpart, Dave Bassett, fulminating, bellowing wordlessly, prime candidates

derland have to beat Southampton, and Reid's half-time rant is another demonstration of his mastery of the expletive.

"The first 30 minotes, there was only one side that wanted to win it, and it was f\*\*\*\*\*\* embarrassing," he begins.
"They were quicker to every
ball, they were winning f\*\*\*\*\*\* tackles - there's Berkovitch making f\*\*\*\*\* tackles and winning them. Hey, I don't give

about - losing shite, not f\*\*\*\*\* having a go, oot wanting to get up people's f\*\*\*\*\* arses, not having the bollocks to get the ball and pass it." His voice rises to a fever pitch of fury as he throws himself round

ian rage (it must be said here that he comes across as a good bloke): "F\*\*\*\*\* get it sorted out, f\*\*\*\*\* have the responsibility, f\*\*\*\*\*\* get up his arse.
I could f\*\*\*\*\*\* play out there.
Get it f\*\*\*\*\* sorted!"

Perhaps Reid should have taken a tip from George Costanza on Seinfeld (BBC2). But then again, perhaps not. In his unlikely new job of deputy transport manager for baseball's New York Yankees (last week, he went for an interview and bawled out the team's trascible and eccentric owner, George Steinbrenner, and was offered a job on the spot), George has been keen to share his deep knowledge of the sport with the players and coaches. His handiest hint was to switch from

breathe" - to cotton for the team's suits. For the first game it worked wonders, but for the second ... disaster. "And there's something wrong with the Yankees," you could hear the commentator say as they took the field. Their suits have shrunk! Wade Boggs' shirt has split!" Whether George is still in the joh on Tuesday night must be

in some doubt. Any possibility that Danny Wilson's joh as Barnsley manager might have been in doubt was removed on Wednesday when his side put Manchester United out of the FA Cup. Alex Ferguson, did his usual complaining joh afterwards, skying he had expected Barnsley to get all the decisions, and indeed, there appeared to some con-

est equalise three minutes from the dressing-room in a Hitler- polyester - "it just doesn't troversy over John Hendrie's

the information it gives you?

# Karlsson shows his ' class to lead Els

Andy Farrell reports from Dubai

AS FINE a performance as Ernie Els' nine-under-par 63 was, around only two strokes mance. outside the South African's own Emirates course record, it was not the only extraordinary warning. At the time, he display in the second round of the Dubai Desert Classic.

Robert Karlsson, the ganlead despite Els overtaking him at the top of the leader board in the morning, with a 65 which included two eagles.

This was the first time that Karlsson, who has won twice on around. tour, has achieved such a feat in Norman four adrift.

More amazing was Josenot need a medical expert to ad- year hold on the money title. vise him not to tee off with a

The fact that he was wear-

ing a sweater in what was definitely shirt-sleeve weather yesterday told how the Spaniard was suffering. He has done littie else hut take antibiotics and refuge in his hed, so rounds of 69 and 67 was some perfor-

Then there was Seve Ballesteros' reaction to his slow-play seemed to be his usual furious self, but later he stuck to his word of not seeking controvergling Swede, maintained his sy. "I said I won't complain hecause complaining does not get you anywhere," he said. "Not on the European Tour. If the referee says I was slow naybe he was right." Gaping months all

The difference between Els' a competitive round and he is round and his previous record. right in saying that if he contin- effort, in 1994 when he also ues in similar vein over the won the tournament, was the weekend, he will be hard to beat, two extra putts he needed. whatever the quality of the op- Having finished in the top position. Els and Ignacio Garrido three in his last four events, the are three behind the Swede's 13- South African is making the under half-way total, with Greg running at the top of the European money list.

More high finishes here and Maria Olazabal being among at the Volvo PGA champithose five back on eight under. onship could see him re-evalu-Olazabal is suffering from flu ate his schedule to try and and a throat infection and it did hreak Colin Montgomerie's five

"I am really happy I made tournaments," he said "rather. than in America. They have had



Ernie Els displays his classic swing on the first heir at the Errorates Club yesterday

performer in the long run and

awful weather on the West he plumped for Els. [25]. Tr'. Coast and when I played in San going to be very interesting Diego it was the worst condi-seeing the two battle : :: said tions I have played in so far." the Shark. "Ernie's go. a few Norman, runner-up to Els more years under his belt and here in '94, joined the discussion has great control of the flight of about whether Els or Tiger his ball, whereas Tiger can Woods will prove the stronger struggle sometimes in the

wind."

Turké DEBERT CLASSIC (Emirates Club)

1.51...0 reprond-cound soopse (GB or in un
let.: "Diseus 13. R Kartston (Swe) 56 65. 134

1 Ger, ha. ("7) 57 67; E Eis (SA) 71 53. 135 0

Norms... ykun) 57 96. 135 M Mouland 69 67; J

Mr Oscraba (Sp) 69 67; P-U Johnston (Swe)
68 67; D Cause 68 69; S Ballestone (Sp) 68 68.

137 P Heddom (Swe) 69 69; R Weeles (SA)
68 68; A Oktoom 71 66; S Allen (Aus) 67 70; I

Woomane 68 68. 135 T Strof (The) 68 70; Octobre (Arg) 70 68; U Herstwood 69 69; O Emise
(GB) 72 68; A Huntier 69 69; J Coores (Arg)
71 67; 136 M A Alwin (So) 68 71; A Forstvand
(Swe) 68 70; A Well 71 68; P Pice 68 71; E

Bornero (Arg) 72 67; C Montgomerie 70 69; P

Balan 69 71; R Maritz Pietit) 69 70.

Photograph: Alisport

 Laura Davies stormed hack into contention in the Australian Ladies Masters yesterday by equalling the course record of 65 in Gold Coast, Queensland. Davies had a seven-under par second round to lie eight shots off the leader, America's Cindy Schreyer.

shrimps from the sea.

It was then that I also

goal, with ITV's virtual replay demonstrating, according to Bob Wilson and Kevin Keegan, his pundit for the night, that he was offside when he picked up Darren Barnard's pass for the first goal. Most reporters, I have to say,

agreed with that assessment. But as far as I could see, the computer reconstruction clearly showed an overlap between Hendrie and the defender. Which means they're onside especially given that officials have to give the benefit of any doubt to the attacker. A couple of years ago he would have been offside. But that was then and this is now. What's the point of having all this technology if you're incapable of interpreting

#### temperature of 102 degrees oo the decision to play in these Thursday.

#### Weekend fixture guide

#### TODAY Football

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Contastead V Kattleting
Halltex V Farmborough (5.0)
Hayes V Stavanage
Kiddermineter V Hoove
Leak Town V Mortivelch
Morecambe V Stavan
Russhden & Disconds V Statybridge
Southport V Wolding
Welfing V Hodnestord
FA CARLSBERG VASS Stady round: Kidsgrove
V Potters Ber: Speaking Und V Tiverton: Sudbury
Vanderes V Tow Leav; Taumion V Pertheren.
FYMAN LEAGUE Premier Divisions Ayestany Wenderes v Tow Law; Taumen v Porthleven.
RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division: Aylestury
V Vesding; Basingstoke v Heybridge; Carshaton v Gravesend & Northleet Chelman v Dagenham & Redbridge; Dulwich v Hitchin;
Kingstorium v Hendon; Oxford Cary v Bovelson
Wood; Purleet v Bonning; St Albame v Harow
Borsogh; Watten & Hendon; Oxford Cary v Bovelson
Borsogh; Watten & Hendon; Oxford Cary v Bovelson
Borsogh; Watten & Hendon; Oxford Cary v Bovelson
Borsogh; Watten & Hendon; Sutton Lind, First
Divisions Bognor Region v Borton Lind, First
Division to Bognor Pages v Bortonson; Cristsey v Theme Croydon v Worthing; Grays v Atlandon Town: Leatherneed v Alexanton, Molesery
Barrior; Romitoria v Hendon; Molesery
Barrior; Romitoria v Hendon; Molesery
Barrior; Borston; Windon Region; Watten
Berkey v William; Bedford v Northvecod; Braktness windon & Eton; Challont &
Pater v Edgewer Town; Charlant v Tibury;
Bellant, Leighton v Brackness; Markov v

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Banstead: Weakletone v Hungerload; Wivenhoe v Roding & Mitcham. Thard Divisions Analey v Capton; Camberley v Hernel Hempstead; Conntrien Camberley v Hernel Hempstead; Conntrien Casula v Kingabury; Croydon Afficial Camberley, Parkey Hernel Hempstead; Epsom & Evell v Ford; Harlow v Herriord; Honghurch v Oorking; East Thumoto v Southal; Epsom & Evell v Ford; Harlow v Herriord; Honghurch v Oorking; Lesses v Wingabar; Fing v Ware.

UNBORD LEAGUE Premier Division: Affice to Video v Randon Stanley; Colventor: Beston Util v According Stanley Colventor; Beston Util v According Stanley; Colventor; Condense v Mitthor; Lincoln Util v Workingtor; Stanley; Colventor; V Kingbourne; Stanley; Colventor; V Kingbourne; Colventor; V Baston; Colventor; Stanley; Colventor; Cult Viller, Stanley; Colventor; Cult Viller, Stanley; Colventor; Cult Viller, Stanley; V Cambridge; Childrich; Stanley; Cardon; V Stanley; Colventor; V Farentor; Division: Bastock v Trovbridge; Childrich; Carmon; Cardon; Davisor; Bastock v Trovbridge; Childrich; Carmon; Cardon; Davisor; Harvey V Cambridge; Childrich; Cardon; Viller; Fischam v Flaher; Hart v Henset; Margar v Incharley; Warencoville v Cavendor; Weater, Stanley Colventor; Weater, Cardon; V Harvey V Cambridge; Childrich; Cardon; V Wester, Stanley V Cardon; Childrich; Cardon; Car SNOW REPORTS

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WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Flort Division: Beckenham v Desi; Canterbury v Whitstable; Craftham Cortifian; Cray v Folkestone India; Erith v Hythe; Feveralsam v Harne Bay, Greenwich Borough v Crockenhil; Lordissond v Thamesersed; Remagate v Tuntriog Wells; Sheppey v Slede Green; VCD Athletic v Swanley Furnas.

LYNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE Free Divisions are cold v keeperfer. Schoolster v Live.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Arunda v Assecolar, Chichester v Horstein: YMGA, Essebusins Bown v Portfale;
Hatchern v Pediesry, Littletempton v Langray
Sports; Mis Oak v Sessey, Fechil v Purgess He,
Higgmar v Pediesru, Littletempton v Langray
Sports; Mis Oak v Sessey, Fechil v Purgess He,
Higgmar v Pediesru, Littletempton v Langray
League Cup quaeter-finat: Wort v Satidean.
UHLSPOT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE
Premier Division: Higgeria v Mintees Backstons.
League Cup Eynatury v Deverty.
SCREWPIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Backwall v Shidysetter, Birthport v Burnstople: Staffington v Massbury; Chard v Blasted,
Chipperhant v Roynsham; Elmore v Manguafalt; Missianian v Palucir; Terrisquar v Calle;
Bristol Nanor Ferm v Odd Down.
NORTHERIR COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pre-

Partici Namor Ferm v Odd Down.
NORTHERN COUNTRES EAST LEAGUE Prenite Division: Amsterna Waters v Arnold; Denaby v Curzon Ashton; Hallem v Eodeshill;
Hudmar v Glessinoughon Waters; Liversedge v Cesen Rosm, North Fertiby v Methoy MW; Ossent Ablon v Sheffled; Portefract Colls v Picisent Ablon v Sheffled; Portefract Colls v Piciearing; Seiby v Brigg; Thackley v Neitheld Mein.
NORTH weST COUNTRES LEAGUE First Division: Atherion Collieries v Warrington; Blockdool Roses v St Neiters; Citheron v Meiline Rost;
Hestingden v Atherion LR; Moseley v Cheddar-

Area Last Lwr Upp open snow cm cm

Snow Reports supplied by Ski Hotline

ton; Nantwich v Remetortom; Newcastle Royn v Gkasop North End; Prescot Cables v Derwert; Satlord v Buraccugh; Vaushall GM v Rossendata. JEWSON WESSEK LEAGUE; Andows v Cowes Sports; Bournermouth v Brockenhunst; Christchard v Portsmouth RN; Downton v Gospon Borough; East Cowes Vics v Newbury; Homsey v Aerostrobnes; Trackers v Eastlogic Writchauch v Berneron Heath Hest; Wirdborns v BAT Sports.

v Gorleston, Lowestoft v By; Sudbury Town v Garton; Warboys v Wrodnen; Whodbridge v Stommerlet.

INTERLINK EVERIESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Berealt v Ruthal Oxyrob: Boldmare & Micheels v Stratford: Chessolven v Bridgnorth; Helsesower v Stapenfill: Knypersicy Victoria v West Midlends Police; Pelsail Villa v Willenhalt, Hooseler v Parshors; Sandwell Borbugh v Oklobry; Strind v Kings North; Wadreafield v Blocelich.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERM LEAGUE Flest Division: Billingham Town v Beinington; Crook v Bedington; Durham City v Dursson FB; Guldborsuph v Parritir; Northelleron v Morpetit; Saathern Field Star v Jerrow; Shidden v Murton; South Shielda v Corsett; Slackston v Billingham Symitonia.

South Shiekta v Cornestt, Stockton v Billingham Symithonia. PRESS 1. JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE-Broza Rengar v Fort William: Buckle Thistis v Eigh Circ Case Rengar v Fortner, Deverantie v Eigh Circ Case Rengar v Fortner, Deverantie v Fortner, Case Rengar v Fortner, Deverantie v Fortner, Case Court of the Courty v Lostestenoush v Fester State Courty v Lostestenoush Salitiknorf Richt League Premier Division: Acts v Citiconville; Bellymens v Crusadars; Glestoom v Colemans, First Division: Bellymens v Citiconville; Bellymens v Crusadars; Glestoom v Colemans, First Division: Bellymens v Distilier; Carrido v Limenstry Uri; Dungermon Swifts v Larne; Newy v Bengor. LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Barry Rown (20); Casmanichon Rown v Corneità Clasy (23); Castelle V First Rown v Welefpool (230; Heardonews t Newform) (20); First Rown v Welefpool (230; Heardonews to Newform) (231; First Cable-Tell v Finsyader Rown, (230; First V Bangot City (20); TNS Llarasenfilmid v Portfrendog (230). HARP LAGER MATIONAL LEAGUE OF RE-LAND Premier Division: Fins Harps v St. Patricks Artistic (730); Shelbourne v Crooptede Uri (730; Sigo Rowers v Dunderk (730).

Rugby League SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Fifth round: Castelord y Bradioris (S.O. Rugby Union .

3.0 unites pession
TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP
Geneter-Ensies Commel viriampatrie (230) (at
Redustry, Currbin v Chambre (230) (at
Tynedale), Northumberland v Vorlahire (230) (at
Tynedale), Tyricolo).
TETLEY'S SITTER CUP Querter-finale:
Northempton v Newcastle (20); Richmond v
Saracers; West Hartspool v Sele.
ALLIED DURBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE: Beth
v Hartsquars; Brissol v Leiosater. Promierahip
Twee: Fivide v Walschild (220); Mosetley v v Heriequins; Bristol v Leloester Premi Two: Fylde v Wakefield (2:30); Mos Backheeth

Two: Fylde v Waladield (230); Mosatoy v Backheelt. JEWSON MATTONAL LEAGUE ONE: London-Wieleh v Webnester (230); Lydrey v Morley; Rug-by v Leeds. Two North: Webrel v Sendel (230); Stouthridge v Hindstey (230); Two Souths Barking v Weston-super-Mere (230); Ciffron v Metropolitar Police.

SWALEC CUP Shigh round (2.30 unders stational Police.); Garcaffatti v Lehravaran; Neath v Buttin Webe; Swenners v Abertsvon; Tredegar v Seven Senen; LWC v Newport.

TENNENTS VELVET CUP Flitth round: Currie v Gels; East Klöride v Hewick; Edinburgh Acade v Webstonians; Heride For v Siring Courty; Jed-Forest v Glasgow Hewice; Keiso v West of Scotland; Klimurrock v Metrose; Kricatoy v Boroughmult.

TENNENTS VELVET BOWL Social round:
Carroundle ISSP v Marr; Chydisbank v Carrhe
Queens Park; Elon v Parthelmer, Heseloch Herlequis v Streitunger, Helphand v Carrbusaleng;
Morgen Acad FP v St Andrews Unity, North
Bervick v Rose High; Royal High v Helenaturgh,
TENNENTS VELVET SHIELD Second round:
Aloa v RAF Lossismouth; Benvick v Foreitian
FP; Corrisophine v Stewarth; Currelate
Aloyalen; Presson Lodge v Ayr, Selakt v Durfermitian; Stewarth Merkler Pv Duns.
AMS LEAGUE Phas Divisions (2.30): Ballyminta
v Laractower, Bendrock College v Gloriant; Dephin v Constitution; Genryowen v Stemat, Dephin v Constitution; Genryowen v Stemat,
Young Manater v Dungermon. Second Division
(2.30): DLSP v Sundays Welt; Greystone v Buccaneart, Instontens v Donry, Malone v LICC;
Morkstown v Stemies; Cid Wesley v Calvegiers;
Wendersta v Becker Rangers
CLUS MATCHES; Coventry v Reading (2.5);
Codnd Link v Panguis (2.30): Pottpool v Weterioo (2.30). Carcellied: Nottingham v Loughborough Students.

Cricket

Cricket Hockey

FIGCKEY

AZIAN SHAH SIX NATIONS TOURNAMENT
(poh, Malley): Augmile v England; Germany v
Korse; New Zeeland v Melaysie.

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN INDOOR CLUZ
CHAMENONSHIP A Division (Rösselenlan)
Pool A: Storgh, Shafel (Lith), Grovingen (Neth),
Rüsselenleiner (Ger).
ESL SOUTH Premier: Anchoriers v Winthledon;
Bactesnham v Windhester; Essecte v Wolding;
Frenham v Rogers; Gorte Court v Europidge Wals;
Hame Bay v Parmgarhis; Meldenhead v City of
Portsmouth; Old Whitghillan v Chichester; Porley v High Wycombe; Richmond v Bouhammouth,
WEST OF ENGLAND & SOUTH WALLES Prerelier; Bristof Univ v Cityedon; Rothmone v Besh
Buccs; Taurion Vela v Exister Lith; Westornea,
ADMAIR EAST Premier: Belschyb, Blortbord.

Budes Taumon vala v Exeser Link; Weston-aupar-Mare v Chellenhard; Whitchurch v Staureas.

ADNAIS EAST Premier: Bishop's Stortford v
Carribridge Chris Combridge Link v Presidenceugh
Town; Capcion v Luison Town: Crostys v Issuecht
Surplusy v Colchester
DTZ BEPLAND Premier: Blowich v North
Stationd; Hampton-in-Ardem v Coventry &
North Marwick; Vestoron v Edglasston; North
Nota v Bloseomisist; Northampton Seints v Kneisis; Otion & West Westwick v Notrophan;
NORTH Premier: Ban Rhydding v Harrogists;
Denhari Link: v Timperley; Neston v Chester;
Southport v Northon; Swellvelli v Sheffled
Barlean; Wigan v Formby;
WOsiEnts' NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier:
Citton-Scottlish Life v Ipseich (2:50); Hightown
v Indiens | 12(2); Suntentry v Bradford Swittens
(12(3); Loughborough Students v Lalcaster (2:20); Loughborough Students v Lalcaster (2:20); Seenood Dikelpor: Esting v Addidge (1:30; Collectory or Chelmator Highway
(12:30; Seenood Dikelpor: Esting v Addidge (1:30; Cold Loughtinings v Sherwood (10; West Winney v Phymion (2:20; Wolding v Bushnaris (2:0);
WOSIENE'S SOUTH | First Division: Hendon w
Duhutch Horsham v Winnesser, Reading v Mass

WOMEN'S SOUTH First Division: Hendon is Duhict, Horston in Whitelester, Randing villus Hit Southerspion & Hernatised & Westminster, Windhung vill is Medicinheed.
ROYAL, AL-FAISEL WOMEN'S MIDLAND Preside: Herpton-In-Archine North Stella; Kettering v Crimon Remiblers, Lelecater v Belger, Pickwick v Luson.
WOMEN'S EAST Premiert, Achtroid v Webryn Gerden City, Derphan v Savennalex, Herteston Mappies of Bury St Edmunds; St Albane v Cambridge City.
WOMEN'S HORTH Hirst Division: Leyland Motora v York, Sheffeld v Lusepoil Setton.
WOMEN'S WEST Premier; Bourremouth v Exmouth; Explain v Chellen's Burnsmitter v Colacit: Redaind v Burnton Vale; Yess v St Austel.

THYSPORTS WOMEN'S THREE COUNTIES First Division: Bradkreil v Miton Keyness: City of Ciclord v Miton Keynes E, Farnitear Common v Oxford Unit, Herriey v Ranelegh; Meldenheed v Reading; Newbury v Scramp, Vifician v Vot Sarat Hawke: Wycostab Rys v West Warey. Baskethall

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: England v is-rael (BG) (at Nynds arens, Manchester). ice hockey SUPERLEAGUE Play-offe: Group A; N Cobres v Sheffeld Steelers (630) Other sports

ATHLETICS: Under-20 Ingernational: Great British v Germany v France (Straingham). 90WLS: English Womards Indoor Neglonal Championalips (Vermouth). SOLIASH: Super Series final (Hatileid). TENNIS: Guardian Direct Cup (Betterse London).

**TOMORROW** Football

LEAGUE OF WALES: Ebbw Web v Cermerthen Town (230) DR MARTISMS LEAGUE Southern Division: Eith & Bekedore v Weymouth (20). Rugby League
SIK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Fifth round:
Devatury Woom (30): Hail of Birriborough (25):
Hail Morgation Rovern or Swinton (30): London or
Haillast (230); Shefiled or Experions (25): Shefiled or Vernington (45): Wiches or Salford (30):
FIRST Office of Shefiled or Leigh (230);
Rochdele v Keighley (30).

Rugby Union
TEILE'S SITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONISHE
Charle-finds Gournsteinhe's Someone (250)
RELEY'S SITTER CUP Quarter-final: London
tells Visited Ret. hish v Shiepe (20). SWALEC CUP Shish round: Llanell v Caerphilly

Hockey
AZLAN SHAH SIX NATIONS TOURNA (pot, Malaytis V Germany; Kore Zeniand. WOREN'S - EUROPEAN INDOOR CLUB
CHAMPIONSHIP, A Division (Rüsselshaim)
Pool & Skogh, Stadiel (Libs), Gront-gen (Neth),
Rüsselshaimer (Gen)\*
NATIONAL LEAGUE Pirat Division: Bueharts
v Bronley (230); Chelmilord v Driord Univ. 13);
Glouosiste Chy V Loughborough Students
(130); Hampatead & Westminster v Frebrands
(230); Hulv Bournides (20); Inden Carristners
v Brooklands (20); Boa v Surtision (20); Lewes
v Octoor Hawker (150); Straffact v Harbeton Magpies (230); St. Albants v Westmington (20); Stout-port v Hawart (230).

WOSEN'S SOUTH First Division: Duhidh Whichsore Hill: Harspeled, & Weeminger Meldenheet, Henden v Horstern; Southamplo v Randing, Trise Hill v Whicheste. Ice hockey
SUPERLEAGUE Play-offs Group A: Ar Soc Superleague v Newcaste Cobes (630; Shorfset Inth Englas v Newcaste Cobes (630; Shorfset Sholam v Nottingham Parthers (530), Grou 2: Cardif Davis v Bactonel Beas (60); Mar chester Shorm v Bachgacke Spon (80).

Other sports BOWLS: English Woman's Indoor National Championships (Namouth), SNOOKER: Learnool Victoria Charty Challenge (Durby), SQUASY: Super Series final (Hatfield), TENNQS: Guesdan Direct Cup (Battersae Park, Institut)

# An art that takes patience not tackle

In the first of an occasional series, Annalisa Barbieri pits her wits in search of the elusive Scottish salmon

than using a fly.

And also, I suspect, easi-

er to catch a fish with because

the hait (in this case a 10-

gram silver Toby) was far

more attractive as it whirled

through the water than a

teeny tiny fly. My Hardy

Fibalite spinning rod, at 81/sft,

is far easier to handle but was

set up for right-hand use, so

after four hours I found my

wrist hurt so much I thought

I had turned into Chris

Quarry Pool and Stream,

and the Timpool Stream, no

salmon wanted to know. This

saddened me, for I have nev-

er caught a salmon and am

But, although I fished the

Evans.

THE GHILLIE led me to Far less tactical, I found, some very intimidating water, the Nine Wells pool on the river Teviot, (a tributary of the very posh Tweed) in the Scottish borders, where the river ran fast and fell from gentle shallows to rocky eight-foot depths at a foot-width's notice. This was very active fishing. I started with a lovely swishy rod, an Orvis Power Matrix double-handed salmon rod which was indeed so light I could have carried it with me all day, had it not been 14ft long and I chose a.

nine-weight floating line. My ghillie (guide) opened a fly box and - as I always do, rather stupidly perhaps - I selected a fly on instinct (I always think "if I were a obsessed with doing so. One salmon, what would I go for of my fishing buddies, Alan, today?"). It was a "thunder had a salmon on in the Ouarand lightning" waddington fly ry Pool which some of the but the water was so fast that others actually saw for one I had to keep casting every 30 hrief, brilliant moment, beseconds until my shoulder fore it shook itself free. started to hurt.

my fishing days are usually Scotland so we fished the spent casting badly and get- trout pond at Suniaws inting caught on weed until stead. Here we caught four everything magically falls into place after lunch.

pool, where the pace was a lit- cold), so when getting ready tle slower and a great many fish have been caught. Here I started to get a little excited at the thought of catching a salmon, silver and fat from

But nothing, oot a hite or a twitch. Not even an "is it or isn't it" caught-on-theriverbed false alarm. Rubbish. At times like this all one can do is eat lunch. Plus, although it was a magnificent through action rod, I was finding it difficult to Spey cast in such a heavy flowing river with my Power Matrix. The Sunlaws beat, which we were fishing, ends at a handsome viaduct near the remains of Wallace's Tower, and this is where our picnie was left for us by the kind Sunlaws people. It was a feast and it is no coincideoce that after luoch, my casting was magnificent.

made a great discovery: the spinning rod. It was on a spinning rod that Georgina Ballantine (my heroine) caught her monster 64lh recordholding salmon in 1922, so it easy. You whack out some line, reel it in and do it again.

The next day was Sunday, The first half of most of so no fishing for salmon in rainbow trout, mostly very close in to the hank (they I moved to the Quarry come in quite close when it's to re-cast, it was necessary to draw the line up slowly. It was by doing this that I got a few bites, but nothing that came to a fishie-in-my-oet conclusion. We were all fishing marahou viva (size 12) lures and they proved to be magic. Alan got three after he changed his retrieval from a nervous twitch to a slow and steady "loch style" retrieve pulling in a foot of line at a time. This way, he said, the fish hook themselves and you don't need to strike. The last and higgest rainbow of the day, caught in the furthest

pool, went to Pete on a corixa. I asked to play two of the fish, as I wanted to feel that electric pull of a fish at the end of the line (even if it was a 11b rainbow). But the fish didn't provide much sport, perhaps it was the cold, or perhaps the Hardy Sovereign 91/aft sea trout rod subdued them too quickly, but the rainbow fish were in the oet and priested in under three minutes. We ate two for dinner and I drank my cognac reading magical tales from was a surprise that I hadn't the log book of salmon tried it before. Spinning is so caught by all, it seemed, hut me.

With thanks to GNER.



The salmon still has the jump on the fisherman despite the modern array of rods and flies

# o Bulls



المال الأمل

# Sluggish Wariso makes fast exit

لمكذا عن ألاصل

reports from Valencia

ON TOP of the world rankings coming into the European Indoor Championships, Solomon Wariso crashed to terra firma with a premature hump yesterday. The sprinter with the Superman tattoo on his left arm was unable to fly round the track

in the Luis Puig Sports Palace. Britain's golden shot for the 400 metres title was a mere Clark Kent when he pulled on his spikes for the heats. He finished third and failed to qualify for the semi-finals.

Perhaps I should get it lazered off and put The Joker on instead." he said, pointing to his physical artwork. "Maybe someone put kryptonite in my food this morning."

PAUL EDWARDS may become the first British athlete to be given a life ban, after allegedly failing a drugs test for the second time in his career. The 39-yearold former Commonwealth shot bronze medallist is alleged to have tested positive for traces of testosterone in an out-of- competition test last June, Edwards, who was suspended for four years in 1994, is likely to be banned for life if be is found to have committed a second offence.

The special powers Wariso in the AAA Championships certainly deserted him. Off the so embarrassing going home." pace from the gun, he trailed across the line behind Carlos Silva of Portugal and the Pole Tomasz Czubak in 48.81sec - a sluggish shadow of the man who clocked a scorching Los Angeles last week and then 45.71 sec in Birmingham three weeks ago.

"Get me a gun and a blindfold," the sprinter-cum-freelancewriter shouted to Graham Knight, one of the British team coaches, as be left the track and headed for the exit door. "It II be now Britain's second-ranked



summoned on his 400m debut Darren Braithwaite (centre) leads his heat of the 60 metres, which he won in 6.67sec in Valencia yesterday

Solomon, for all his wisdom. was asking for trouble in making two trans-Atlantic trips in the past formight - to train with his coach Innocent Egbunike in

"I felt really sluggish," be said, "but I'm not going to make any excuses, I wasn't sure I was going to win here but I expected to

to return to Europe on Tuesday.

go home with a medal." So did Sean Baldock, But

400m runner will be hoping to return to Sussex with the gold. On form this season, Baldock is the fastest man left in the field. A comfortable winner of his beat in 47.26, the man from Hastings

can expect a battle with the Ital-

pressive qualifier. Paul Slytbe, the third 400m man in the British team, bade his farewell with Wariso. Fourth place in his heat, in 47.62, was not quite good enough to secure

a semi-final place.

er British "casualty" in the opening session of competition, failing to reach the heights he achieved with his fifth place in the pole vault in the World Championships last summer.

Nick Buckfield was the oth-

Two failures at 5.55m left him ian Ashraf Saber, an equally imneeding to improve his British indoor record by 4cms to 5.64m to reach the final. He was unable to rise to the occasion, though clearing 5.55m

at the third attempt at least sal-

vaged a season's best for Buck-

women's qualifying pile will have done little harm to Ashia Hansen's hopes of striking gold. The Shaftesbury Barnet Harrier has particularly tough com-

British team.

petition in her event but she goes into this afternoon's final with the psychological edge of having eclipsed her rivals yesterday. her second round effort.

field, another Sussex man in the

stake on the triple jump runway,

though finishing top of the

There were no medals at

Photograph: Phil Cole/Allsport

14.48m. put her 10cms ahead of the Czech world champion Sarka Kasparkova, Rodica Mateescu, the Romanian who leads the European indoor rankings this season, was the third best qualifier, with 4.12m.

"It's very close between us." Hansen said, "but I'm trying not to think about it too much." At least the Indiana-born

Briton exorcised the ghost of her last European Indoor challenge. She failed to register a valid jump in Stockholm two years ago.

#### **Cricket: Fourth Test**

# England fail at toss and spin

teelness of one's views, England were either hoist by their petard on the first morning at Bourda or stuffed rotten by sod's law.

Having decided quite rightly, to go into this crucial Test match with two spinners, it was imperative that England should win the toss and therefore bowl last when the pitch would be at its most receptive for spin.

After winning the first three tosses of series, this was a tall order for Mike Atherton and after the coin had rolled a fair distance, it came

down the wrong BLOFELD way. The agony was underlined when both Dean Headley and Angus Fraser found that the pitch had pace and bounce.

had been so safe in the slips in Trinidad, had hung on to all that Atherton and his fellow selectors made a bold decision in picking off-spinner Robert Croft and his presence could still give Engand an important advantage.

80 minutes, the two left han- could have played it. ders Brian Lara and Chanwas bowling hand grenades. The ball rurned, if only slowly, but oeither was prepared to pick his bat up and play

DEPENDING on the gen- Lara dispatched a full toss wide of mid-on for four.

The odd ball kept low and when Lara aimed a violent pull at a shorter ball, it went through at half-stump height and was within a whisker of hitung the off stump. The danger in allowing a bowler to operate unchallenged like this is that once the psychological advantage has been surrendered it is so difficult

to get it back. When play restarted after lunch, Fraser soon found a spot at the Regent Street End where the ball had gone through the surface and it became increasingly

clear that stroke play was going to become more difficult as the match went on. But if you are a baisman of Lara's class, ordinary If only Alec Stewart, who rules do not apply.

Fraser, of all people was driven for three fours but Shivnarine Chanderpaul. For two of these were from half volleys and the third from a lovely stroke from Lara when he hit through the line of a good length ball on off stump. It was a superb stroke and on this pitch only When he came on after a batsman of Lara's class

It was a joy to watch derpaul, played him as if he Lara and Chanderpaul go for their strokes after lunch. They took the initiative back in the first hour in this series in which the bat has been on a stroke. The only one we top of the ball at both ends. saw before lunch came when It was glorious cricket.

### Spinners ready for action in dry zone

NOT since the heyday of Lance Gibbs in the 1960s and the magical Indian quartet. Bedi, Chandrasekhar, Prasanna and Venkat, in the 1970s can spin bowling be accurately said to have won a

tically expect it now especially as the West Indies have no so for Eogland. Gibbs and Eng-

WEST land no Bedi or Prasanna. Nev-INDIES ertheless, both are counting on VIEW: what they have at TONY their disposal to COZIER make an impact on a match like-

ly to decide the series. Their assessment has been hased on a pitch in the middle of a parched, dehydrated outfield that is bound to suck up any water in the vicinity. There has been no significant rain in Georgetown since September and forecasters gloomily predict there will not be any for an-

El Niño has not only proved a bother to the rice and sugar farmers but also to groundsmen. Although there was still moisture a foot and a half down when the television crew dug its hole just hehind the middle stump for the installation of camera and microphone on Thursday, the surface seems

other three months.

dry and is virtually grassless. The West Indies team coach, Malcolm Marshall, used the word "flaky" on ex- the match.

amining it and, like England. expected it to respond to spin before very long.

It will be up to a leg spinner in his very first Test, Dipanath Rampatine to exploit it for the West Judies and the Test match in the West Indies. unpredictable Phil Tufnell Neither learn can realis- and Robert Croft, who has had little work on tour, to do

> The West Indies also have the uoderrated but experienced off-spin of Carl Hooper and the more speculative orthodox leftarm support of

Jimmy Adams to call on. In the circumstances the toss seemed critical and Brian Lara bad no hesitation in choosing to bat after winning it. Yet, over the first session, he might have wondered what Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh would have made of it. Angus Fraser and Dean Headley found encouraging bounce and some

pace, which they exploited. The susceptible West Indies openers, Sherwin Campbell and Stuart Williams, seldom give the impression of permanency but to have removed them so early was a bonus for England. They know that if they can confine the West Indies to anything below 250 the toss will become meaningless, however the pitch behaves for the remainder of

### Kafelnikov wins the psychological battle with Henman

Australian test for England

Tennis

John Roberts reports from Eattersea Park

WITH the wind flapping the plastic roofing and the stanchion joints creaking, it was difficult to be sure whether we were watching a tennis tournament or about to go ballooning with Richard Branson.

On the Centre Court of the temporary arena in Battersea Park, Tim Henman was running short of belium. It would be unfair to suggest that the British match in five sets. No 2 hlew his chance of ad-

vancing to today's semi-finals of the inaugural Guardian Direct Cup, although that was the view expressed by his Russian opponent, Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Tim should have won, 6-4, 6-4," the third-seeded Kafelnikov said, having triumphed in their quarter-final, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. The 24-year-old knows all about turning points when Henman is on the other side of the net. At Wimbledon two years ago, Henman saved two match points against Kafelnikov, before winning their first round

Yesterday, with Henman

ed two break points at 4.4 in the edge over him psychologically." second set. The first opportu-

cally saved the second with corner of the court. Serving to save the set in the faulted to 15-40, and then struck

a backhand half-volley long af-

serving powerfully and almost hreak at the end of the second ian said. "Oo the baseline I'm flawlessly on a fast carpet court, set," the Russian said. "He a better player than him, and Kafelnikov thought the match thought he had the match woo Tim knows that as well. That's was up when the Briton creat- already. After that I had the why when he misses his first

nity was lost when Henman loft- nikov during the fifth game of ed a hackhand over the the final set. Leading 3-1, be surbaseline. Kafelnikov emphati- vived three break points from 0forehand down the line to the Henman saw another backhand

Kafelnikov sympathised with next game, Henman double- Henman, who has raised his game this week to end a run of five defeats. "When his first ter Kafelnikov returned his serve goes in, basically I'm not next serve. "I was lucky to going to break bim, the Russ-

serve he is under pressure. He's That belief sustained Kafel- a natural. His main problem is psychological."

Henman, while agreeing that be should have won with one of 40, holding for 4-I after his chances at 4-4 in the second set, took a positive stance on his week's progress.

With Henman gone, a sense of anticlimax threatens to pervade the tournament over the concluding two days. Many new ATP Tour event has been next two years.

with Henman and Greg Rusedski failing to pack the stadium. The chief mistake was to schedule Henman's match

low key all week, the notion of

tennis in the park in February

Tuesday that it did not finish until past midnight, by which time most spectators had gone home. Impetus was lost, in addition

to which television coverage on the opening days was sporadic. None the less, the organisers are encouraged by the overall response and are determined to people might consider that the make improvements over the

#### England team in open revolt

ENGLAND'S players ripped

in Belarus.

Now, despite a win which propelled them to third place in their semi-final round group, they are in open revolt. Threatening not

a joint statement said: "There is currently no accountability within the corridors of power in English basketball and no respect for national team members."

Snack foods were the only provision made by the English Basketball Association to compensate for substandard food in Belarus.

The coach, Laszlo Nemeth, said: "I am totally committed to the players but have no respect for chief executive Steve Catton and the Association." Catton responded by saying:

"No one wants to be associated with a team who behaves like this."

#### Shoaib devastates South Africa

Pakistan 259 & 11-0 South Africa 231

produced a devastating spell as Pakistan took a 28-run first-innings lead on the second day of the second Test against South Africa in Durban. Generating startling pace, the 22-year-old Shoaib captured five wickets for 43 as South Africa collapsed from 115 for 2 to 178 for 9.

Shaun Pollock and Allan Donald put on 53 for the last wicket to enable the South Africans to reach 231 all out, and by close of play Pakistan had scored 11 for no wicket to stretch their lead to 39.

early in the day, South Africa appeared to have built a solid foundation when Jacques Kallis and Hylton Ackerman put on 83 in 165 minutes for the third wicket, However, Shoaib, who did not bowl before lunch, pro-

duced a lightning-fast delivery to rip past a defensive shot by Kallis, who scored 43, and with his next ball trapped Andrew Hudson lbw for a duck. He later went on to beat Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener and Fanie de Villiers for pace in a spell of three for 17 from 20 balls. Second day, South Africa won toss PARISTAN - First Innings 259 (Azher Mei 132; A A Donald 5-79).

#### Sunergy profits from risk

#### Sailing

A DARING piece of navigation by Dutch skipper Roy Heiner paid off when his boat, Brunel Sunergy, secured second place in the fifth leg of the Whithread Round the World Yacht Race vesterday.

The yacht completed the 6,670 miles from Auckland to São Sebastião in Brazil, via the Southern Ocean and Cape Horn, more than three days behind Paul Cayard's EF Language. But this hardly mattered to a crew that had recorded two last places and two next-to-

Sporting Digest

Donovan Bailey, the world 100 metres record holder, has withdrawn from an international meeting in Sydney today because of a badly bruised heel.

**Athletics** 

lasts in the previous four legs. Amid the noise of an enthusiastic welcome, Heiner spoke of his brave decision to go to the east of the Falkland Islands after rounding Cape Horn, a move which took Brunel Sunergy from sixth to second. "We started looking at going round the Falkland Islands before we got to Cape Horn. We expected one of the other guys to do it hut they all

followed each other," he said. "We thought there was a realistic chance of wind all the way through. It was a long way round but the only way to sail that part of the leg."

#### Hockey

Bilt Colwill reports from Ipoh, Malaysia

BARRY DANCER, the England coach and Terry Walsh, Australia's chief coach, former team-mates in their national squad, will be in opposite camps as their teams meet in their first match in the Sultan Azlan Shah Six Nations Cup in Ipoh today. Dancer is under no illusions

as to the task he faces. England's last victory against Australia was in Melbourne in 1985 and only last summer, before Dancer took over, England suffered

S P Flaming c Hucke 2 Mbungwe ...
N J Aatle c G Plower b Streek
C D McMiller not out
C L Canns c Streng b Streek
D J Nash low b Streng

their worst ever defeat when they lost 10-0 to the Kookaburras at Basingstoke.

Dancer said yesterday: "Malaysia was a useful start but we need to build on our game."

Although disappointed by the shooting in the Malaysia match he felt the abundance of attacking play in the second half was to be commended. The Australian team is a mix

of youth and experience, from Jay Stacy and Stephen Davies with over 200 caps each to three from the Junior World Cup squad which took gold in Milton Keynes last September under Dancer.

#### Basketball

By Richard Taylor

the lid off the team's impoverished international programme ahead of tonight's crucial European Championship game against Israel in Manchester, by revealing they were fed on Pot Noodles and chocolate hiscuits before Wednesday's 60-55 win

to play for the team next season,

bth (US) 55 73; J Plens (US) 59 69; C Matthew (Sco) 69 69; K Salid (US) 53 70; K Webb (Aus) 59 69; Park Hyun-soon (S Kor) 70 65; S Love (US) 72 67; S selected; 141 L Hackney (Eng) 72 69; J Montey (Eng) 73 70 142 L Pairclough (Eng) 70 72 148 K Marchas (Goo) 53 71 144 L Dawles (Eng) 78 68; C Molation (Eng) 72 72; J Montey (Eng) 73 72; W Datos (Eng) 75 70 148 (Sco) 72 72 145 H Dabason (Eng) 75 70 148 (Sco) 72 72 145 H Dabason (Eng) 75 70 148 (Sco) 72 77 145 Y Datos (Eng) 75 70 148 (Sco) 72 77; S 145 Y Datos (Eng) 75 70 148 (Sco) 75 70; S Strucksch (Eng) 74 76; 153 5 Senenett (Eng) 75 78; Strucksch (Eng) 74 76; 153 5 Senenett (Eng) 75 78.

ice hockey

THORSE DASTOR! VIBIL.

THURREDAYS LATE RESILUTS: The Times FA Youth Cup rounth-round replay benich lown I HJS City of Friendly Machiness Blyt of Michigesbrough XI 1; Greatry 1 Manchester Util XI & Spenish Cup sent-final second leg: Zaragoza o Bercelons 0 (agg: 2-5).

go Hightens

Snooker

EXPRESS CUP Final (Newcastle Areca): Ayr Scottish Engles 2 Bracketell Bees 2

Steve Heaton, the Jack-Forest back-row forward, was yesterday bernned for 10 weeks by the Scottish Rugby Union after being sent off for an alegad head-butt during his clubs Tennents League inteich against Hewick two weeks ago. He was involved in a touchine Incident with the Hawick and Scottand A centre Cammie Murray.

SUPER 12 TOURINALIERT (Duredin, NZ): Otapo Highenders (NZ) 29 Queensland Rede (NAS) 29

# leg (Auckland to São Sabaetão, Br): 1 Ef Ler guage (Swe) 22 days 1 fr Smir 23sec (135ota total 507); 2 BruneSunerry (Nath) 354-777 (18 25): 3 Crassoe Record (US) 220731-98 (105, 339) 4 Swedish Atach (Swe) 813 miles to finish 5 Mari 8 Cap (US) +96; 2 Todriba (US) +999; 7 In-rovation Nuaemer (Nor) +2712; 8 Ef Education (Swe) +2593, Rativet St. Car (105)

GUARDIAN DIRECT CUP (Betternee Perk, Lordon) Singles, second round: T Henmen (36) bt R Scruttler (Ger) 4-6-9-3 B-4; K Kucern (36) wisk) bt F DeWill (Bel) 5-4-5-3. Querter finst: J Stemerick (Hoth) bt M-K Goelner (Ger)

# SHOAIB AKHTAR yesterday

After losing Adam Bacher

196 9-176 Bowling: Wagar Young 18-3-63-0 (3nb); Fazi-e-Alibar 8-2-18-2 (1nb); Shoalb Al-Inar 12-1-43-5 (1w); Mushtaq Alvined 32-9-71-3 (1w); Azira Mahmood 17-6-28-0 (2nb 1w); Azirar Sohali 2-0-4-0 

## Henry Blofeld's West Indies Update

For the latest news. views and regular updates call Heary Blofeld's cricket line on:

0930 563 597 Calls cost Sup per minute at all times.

Basketball

ENGLISH WOMEN'S INDOOR CHAMPI-CRISHES (Hopton-on-See, Great Yernouth) Singles, sent-Brasic E Shorisr (Norwich) bt. J Cruston (York) 21-07. Cashby (Eastbourne) bt A Hill (Note Park, Kent) 21-18. Boxing

Cricket
Glamorgan have appointed their former player John Derrick as their firstteam coach for the 1998 season in
succession to Duncan Fletcher, who
guided them to the County Championship last summer but is unable to
return for the new season.
The England and Wales Cricket Board
is seeking to obtain major sponeorship
over the coming monitis for its new
National League, scheduled to start in
1999.

1999.
A fourth-wicket partnership of 243 – a record for New Zaaland against Zimbabwe – by Matthew Horne and Nathen Astie put New Zealand in command on the second day of the second Test at Eden Park, Auckland, yesterday. The horne side finished on 4-11 for 9, a lead of 271. 

1 3-453. willing (To dete): Streek 28-5-91-3; Miseng-27-10-78-3; G Whittell 14-3-68-0; Streng 16-1-3; A Whittell 11-1-37-0; Hucker 15-1-68-0; polyte 6-0-27-0 piros: 2 G Rendell (Aus) and D 2 Cowie (NZ). SUPERPORT SERIES (Second day of four; Port Etzabeth: Eastern Province 352 (K C Wessels 13, M W Rushmare 55; S Abrahams 50; Free State 142 for 2 (G F J Liebenhorg 68nd), East Lacdon; Northern Titers 32d (R F Pier-aer 56; D Talland 5-54; Border 189 for 8 (S C Pope 70, V C Drakes 59).

Cycling

Herrods are to sponsor a professional team called Harrods-Giant. Chris Lil-lywhite, the 1983 Milk Race winner, will lead a squed including Mett Stephens, Mark McKay, Rob Holden and Chris Ball. Ball.

TOUR OF VALENCIA Third stage (1988). Teamage de Velidigns to Segurdo): 1 F Colorna (0) Asics 4tt 56mn Seec; 2 M Teamage (1) Mecators; 3 M Wast (See) Lotus; 4 F Smon [Fr] Gen; 5 N Jaichert [Fr] Coffeis 6 A Ferrigson (t) Velidict; 7 E Zabel (Gen) [Felton; 6 C Bertoss (Por) Barnesio: 9 P Cherteur (Fr) Costno: 10 S Nersor (Rus) TVM 43 some time Oversit: 1 Charteur HV Smin 43esc; 2 3 Hemburger (Den) Cashor; 3 Goozallar; 50) Melme; 4 H Disz Zabela (Sei Concellar; 50) Melme; 4 H Disz Zabela (Sei Concellar; 50) Melme; 4 H Disz Zabela (Sei Concellar; 5 M Zarnsbeltin (So) ONICE of St. 5 F Simon [Fr] Gen + 26sec; 7 M Gentill (Fr) Gentill; 6 F Mancabo (Sci Barnesto; 9 M Boogend (Meth) Rebotheris; 10 R Pasto (ti) Seecolal st.

co all at.
TOUR OF CALABRIA Third stage (190.5km,
Chioravelle to Bautanove): 1 M Bertol (fi) str
3207sec; 2 F Casegrande (fi); 3 A Vindeburov (Kazsk); 4 E Mazzoferi (fi); 5 R Massi (fi); 5 M
Celestro (fi); 7 R Peters (fi); 5 D Frigo (fi); 9
A El (fi) el serne time; 10 M Coppositio 4,522;
Final overall attendings: 1 Massi Mrt Trim 38eac; 2 Bertol 14:7A0; 3 Mazzoferi 14:7200;
4 = Celestro, El, Frigo 14:7207; 7 Vinobauro

H:12H; 6 Pistore H:12.20; 9 Casegrande H:12.24; 10 Copposito H:12.31. Football

Manchester United have bowed to religious pressure groups for a second time and switched the kick-off time for that Good Piday game with Liverpool egain to 5pm. egen to sprit.

Jimmy Hagen, the former Sheffield
United and England forward, died yesterday, aged 80. Hagen, who started
his career at Derby, also achieved fame
as manager of Benfica, with whom he
won the Portuguese Championship
three times.

Meet Represent African has a second

whest Bromwich Albion have appoint-ed the Oxford assistant manager Malcolm Crosby as first-team coach. Crosby thus renews his links with the Crosby thus renews his links with the Abbon menager Denis Smith, with whom he has worked at York, Sunderland and Oxford.

Wycombe Wanderers have promoted their coach. Nell Smille, the former Crystal Palace, Brighton and Brentford winger, to take ceretaker charge of the first team following John Gregory's move to Aston Villa.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESILL'S: The Times FA.

GOTT

NISSAN OPEN (Valencia, Calif) Leeding serby first-round scores (US unless stated; play
suppended because of discharts with forplayers still to complete); 55 8 Mayhat, 65 3.
Amas (Irhi, 67 M Standy, P Michalton, S Hoch,
3 Manyama (Jopan, K F Machon (Japan), 68 M
Wisbe, 2 Verplank, T Woods, P H Horgan, L
Roberts, T Mich. y Kelly, Selected: 73 N Febto
(GB), 73 S Lye (GB),
AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S MASTERS (Gold
Coast) Leeding second-round scores: 136 C
Schreyer (US), 70 86, 127 A Sorensiam (Swe)

Rugby Union Sieve Heaton, the Jack-Forest back-row



**GAFFER TAPES** 

HE'S ONLY been here a week have imagined it, he's a non-nately I had Ruben with me as local Pizza Hnt has just been precious dome the same name. but already Ruben Tuesdai smoker. looks the signing of the season. He may be raw but he's learned don't teach in the schools of ex- we've to send his shirt to the said.

I put him on the bench last week. After 30 minutes he five so we only gained a point turned to me, pointed at Brocolli Moore, the cluh's record been 4-0 down at half-time. £9m signing, and said: "This Not so Sir Hirem Firem, the man will get you zee sack."

"I know," I replied, "but he's the chairman's signing so I have to play heem."

"I fix heem boss," said Ruben, adding coldly, "and don't take zee mickkee out of fecting your judgement and my accent." Anyway, at the your family life, I know I'm break he bummed a cigarette off Cliff Phace, our centre-half who was having his half-time Marlboro, and took Brocolli into the showers. A few minutes later Brocolli returned, walking a little unsteadily and ashen faced. I could have sworn there were cigarette resigned." hurns on his shorts but 1 must

launderette.

Unfortunately we let in hut I was fairly happy having I like a raise. I naturally agreed chairman.

On Tuesday he summoned me to the Otd Cornfield for a been under a lot of pressure," he said, "and I think it's afyour godfather, I taught you to walk, bought you your first Action Man and signed you for this club as a Junior Sludge many years ago, but maybe it's time you had a break from the game. It's for your sake and the club. I'll tell the press you've

Bit of a shock, but fortu-

we were moving him to a new In the second half half he safe house after a hrush with scored twice and made three the CIA. I was pretty grimthings while kidnapping gov- for Ruben while doing more faced when I left the boardernment officials in the jungles running than he had all year. room and Ruben asked me of Central America that they For the first time this season what was up. "Wait here," he

> A few minutes later the chairman emerged and said he'd reconsidered and would and went to shake on the deal but he shied away muttering something about having a slight problem with his hands, it was then I noticed three of meeting. "I can tell you've his fingernails appeared to be

missing. As I said, Ruben looks a good signing. I've had three managers on already wanting to loan him out for a couple of hours. There's also been a couple of agents sniffing round but I've told them Ruben takes a dim view of extortion unless it benefits the revolution. Meanwhile Ruud has

turned down our generous offer to help us out with some coaching. Even though the

refurbished he said he Calvin Klein boutique," he said, "how can a man of my reputation go shopping in Top Man?" Maybe booking him into the Bates Motel was a

We've made a move for Brian Little instead, I'm sure he'llsign once he sees the new Sludgethorpe Mall, it's got Millets, Shoe Save and Rat-

problem this week. In the club shop we sell posters of Duane Spice dressed up in a dicky bow with the logo "Licenced to Skill". It's a long-running cam- his hand lighting a countryside paign and he plays the role for campaign beacon, and Shaun the pitch, drinks Martini (and anything else in reach) and, by all accounts, has cut a swathe through the local female population

Now I hear that Mandy

Well, it's just not on, and we're wouldn't be seen dead in Slud- not saying that just because gethorpe. "You do not even they refused our hid to erect have an Emporio Armani or the thing on the waste land behind the Gasworks End. I am surprised because we have been heavily involved in the planning, several junior ministers have been to see Swettie Bettie to help proportion the Body Zone and Brian Heckinbottom's lined up as the

poet-in-residence. Anyway, we've told Mandy that the name's got to be changed and the only thing that There's been one other will persuade us to drop our opposition is an appeal to our patriotism and a full listing of

remaining tax loopholes. Ivor Niggle is out, he burnt all it is worth. He wears 007 on Prone received a nasty stab wound taking his kids on a guided tour round Villa Park. The police have assured me be was an innocent bystander.

> Barry Gaffer was talking to Genn Moore

### SIDELINES

# Gers trade with Hearts flowers

DAVE MCPHERSON could be excused for wondering which of Ibrox's dressing-rooms to head for before today's tussle be-



tween two of the three clubs contesting the most absorbing Scottish championship race in years.

Having started his career with Rangers, the towering centre-back was offloaded to Heart of Midlothian by Graeme Souness in 1988. Walter Smith bought McPherson back four years and more than 20 Scotland caps later, only to let him return to Edinburgh in 1994 in the deal which took Alan McLaren to Glasgow.

Transactions between the Gers and and the Jam Tarts are commonplace, reflecting the clubs' shared Protestant traditions. Alex MacDonald, the manager when Hearts came within tantalising reach of the Double in 1986, and his playing lieutenant, Sandy Jardine, amassed 1,200 appearances for Rangers between them.

Historically, Hearts have picked up players surplus to Rangers' requirements. They have included Nicky Walker (goalkeeping heir to a shortbread empire), Willie Johnston, Kenny Black, Davie Kirkwood, Sandy Clark, Colin McAdam, Hugh Burns and Derek Ferguson. Two men better known for crossing the Old Firm divide, Mo Johnston and Alfie Conn, also stopped off at Tynecastle.

Jim Denny, handed his Rangers debut in the 1971 Scottish Cup final against Celtic, was not renowned for his ball control. He left for Hearts bearing the sardonic nickname

> Ten things Hearts' **Angolan** ose **Ouitongo** might be missing today



Being a hillionaire. from corn funge to tartan golan kwanzas to the pound.

2 Luanda. Despite falling into a state of chronic disrepair, the Angolan capital it is still known as the Paris of Africa.

3 The National Bank of Angola's pink headquarters huilding. Not quite Edinburgh Castle, but one of a few historic huildings still standing.

4 Corn funge. A mix of corn and water. Yum. 5 Roque Santeiro street sporrans. largest. Sells everything stop.

There are 323,356 An- shorthread (prohably.) 6 Doing the fandango and other dances which originated in Angola.

7 The music of Barcelo de Carvalta, aka Bonga, whose album "Angola 1972" raged against Portuguese colonialism. 8 Chess champions. An-

gola's Manuel Mateus was the youngest African ever accorded international master status.

9 Wild creatures not. decked out in kilts and

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market, one of Africa's 10 Rainy seasons that

#### NAME OF THE GAME No 24: THE EAGLES

CRYSTAL PALACE'S nickname used to be "The Glaziers". The club was formed in 1905 by the company that ran the Crystal Palace, the glass edifice huilt for the Great Exhihition in Hyde Park in 1851 and moved to Sydenham Hillin south-east London three years later. Following Malcolm Allison's arrival at Selhurst Park in 1973, it was felt that a. more modern name was needed - hence the change to "The Eagles". The modern-day cluh crest features an eagle perched on top of the old Crystal Palace. Rumours that the club are on the point of changing the logo again to incorporate a wingless eagle (one that is unable to stay up I have been discounted.



THIS WEEK

On 28 Fehruary 1979, Wimbledon beat Torquay 6-1 and further enhanced their prospects in the race for the Fourth Division title. In a game that was, according to reports, evenly matched, the Dons only managed to scrape their five-goal margin of victory because they scored on every occasion they had the opportunity to do so, while their hosts were wasteful in front of goal.

The hero of the game for Wimbledon was Alan Cork, whn scored four times, including three goals in the last four minutes of play. The result left Wimbledon second to Reading in the table, and they were eventually promoted in third place come the spring.

Elsewhere that week, in the somewhat loftier Second Division, Terry Venables' Crystal Palace beat Wrexham 1-0 to move into the top three. They won the title in May.

#### THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS Transfers Loans/trials

Free transfers or undisclosed fees unless stated Moussa Saib (midfielder) Valencia (Sp) to Tottenham (£2.3m) Martin Hiden (defender) Rapid Vi-enna (Aut) to Leeds Utd (£15m) Don Hutchison (midfielder) Sheff-leid Utd to Everton (£1m)

Jon O'Connor (defender) Everton to Sheffield Utd (part-exchange) Tony Thorpe (forward) Luton to Fulnam (£800,000) Gerald McMehorr (forward) Stoke to St Johnstone (£85,000)

Earl Berrett (defender) Everton to Sheffield Wednesday Stuart Nethercott (defender) Tot-tenham to Milwall

Pater Zois (goalkeeper) West Ham to Cardiff City Marco Gabbladini (forward) Stoke to York

Jean-Claude Pagal (midfielder) St-Etlenne (Fr) to Carlisle David Xausa (midfielder) Stoke to St Johnstone

Mike Macari (forward) Stoke to Blackpool (trial) Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Harris, Paul Newman Continuous: Fill Orland, Inch. Factor, Land to Sidelines, Sports Desk, Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Whart, London E14 5DL e-mail address: sport @ independent.co.uk

Mark Wilson (midfielder) Man-chester Utd to Wrexham

Grant Brebner (midfielder) Man-chester Uto to Hibernian

Nick Colgan (goalkesper) Chal-sea to Reading

Danny Boxail (defender) Crystal Palace to Oldham

Neville Southall (goalkeeper) Everton to Stoke

Steve Boyack (forward) Rangers to Hull City

Barry Conton (forward) Manches-ter City to Ptymouth

Dominic Fotey (forward) Wolves

lan Rush (forward) Newcastle to Sheffield Utd

Steve Hawes (midfielder) Sheffield Utd to Doncaster

John Robertson (forward) Hearts

Michael Geraghty (forward) Ham-liton to Strannaer

ntin Aldridge (forward) Oxford

Martin Aldridge ( Utd to Southand

to Watford

to Dundee

TODAY 3.0 unless state

fixtures

**FA Carling Premiership** 

Major weekend

and pools check

4 Crystal Palace v Coventry...... 5 Derby v Sheffleid Wednesday.... 6 Everion v Newcastle . 7 Leeds v Southamptor

Nationwide Football League First Division a Bury v Swindon ...... 9 Charlton v Huddersfield

10 Crewe v Reading ...... 11 Manchester City v West Brom... 12 Norwich v QPR 13 Oxford v Stockport : 14 Portsmouth v Tranmere...... 15 Sheffield Utd v Bradford City ....

16 Sunderland v lpswich . 17 Wolves v Birmingham . Second Division

18 Blackpool v Fulham 20 Brentford v York . 21 Bristol City v Southend . 22 Cartisle v Burnlev.

23 Northampton v Grimsby 24 Oldham v Milwell..... 27 Wigan v Chesterfield . 28 Wrecham v Walsall ....

29 Wycombe v Glingham **Third Division** 30 Barnet v Shrewsbury

31 Brighton v Chester....... 32 Cembridge v Mansfield ... 33 Darlington v Rochdale. 34 Hartlepool v Doncaster 36 Rotherham v Leyton Orient ....

38 Scurithorpe v Cardiff ... 39 Swansea v Exeter ... -- Torquay v Lincoln.....

**Bell's Scottish League** Premier Division 40 Aberdeen v Klimarnock. 42 Hibernian v Celtic .....

First Division 45 Abririo v Falkirk

49 Stirling v Morton

Second Division - East Fife v Clyde - Forfar v Clydebank - Livingston v Queen of South ... Stenhousemuir v Inverness Cal Stranraer v Brechin

Third Division Barwick v Arbroath - Dumbarton v Alica -- East Stirling v Queen's Park .....

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership

Nationwide Football League First Division tingham For v Middlesbro (10)

# Wenger happy with his lot

By Mark Bradley

THE Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, has ruled out a higmoney move into the transfer market before deadline day -unless Ian Wright's recovery from injury is delayed.

Wenger is clearly a big admirer of Southampton's Kevin Davies and is certainly keen to hring in at least one young prospect at some stage if the price and wages fit into Arsenal's tight financial structure. But he is also increasingly impressed by the progress of his 18-year-old striker Nicolas Anelka and feels he already has enough cover in his squad to compete for the title - barring further long-term injuries.

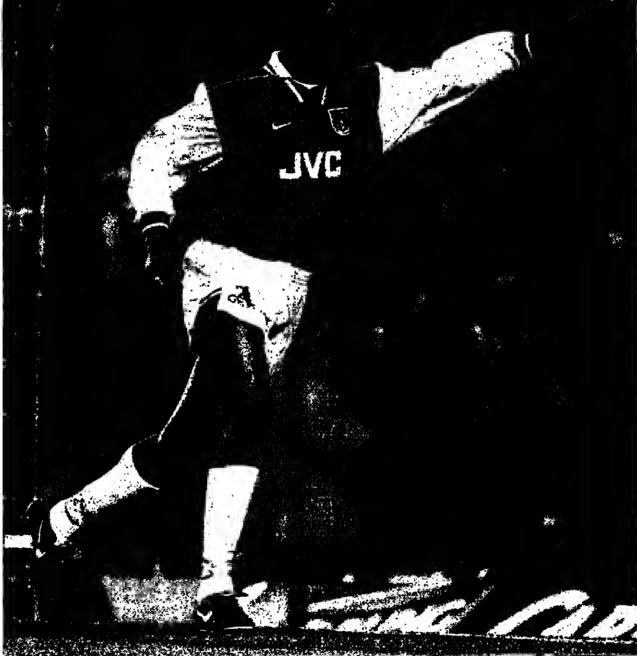
However, Wenger knows if Wright does not return from his current injury problems on schedule in around three weeks' time he could face problems, as Anelka is set to miss vital matches when involved with the France Under-18 side at the end of March.

Arsenal have recently been linked with a move for the who could be available for a fee of £5m as long as his large wage demands were met. But Wenger said: "I like Dublin as a player but we haven't made an inquiry. There's a limit on wages at Ar-

The Leicester City manager, Martin O'Neill, has leapt to the defence of the referee Dermot Gallagher over his suspension by the Foothall Association and has claimed he was the victim of a "knee-jerk" reaction.

Gallagher was due to take charge of City's Premiership fixture at Blackburn today hut his FA ban - over his handling of the recent Chelsea v Arsenal game - means he has been replaced by Neale Barry.

O'Neill said: "There have been other occasions this season when referees have been seen to miss penalties or other vital decisions - but they have not been sanctioned like Mr Gallagher. Other referees must be counting themselves fortunate not to have been picked out. It looks like [it might be] a result of all the things that have been said recently about refereeing decisions."



Nicolas Anelka's form may mean Arsenal's manager, Arsène Wenger, has no need to buy a striker

The Blackburn striker Kevin Gallacher has revealed that he has approached the Football Association over his sending-off following an incident with the West Ham midfielder Eyal Berkovitch in an FA Cup tie on 14 February. Along with Blackburn's appeal, the Scottish striker, who starts a three-match suspension today, wrote a letter to the FA in a vain attempt

"I didn't elbow Berkovitch and believe the referee should have been allowed to see the video. I have been punished for Gallacher said.

something 1 haven't done." The West Bromwich defender Shane Nicholson has been charged by the Football Association for refusing to take a training-ground drugs test this week. The player has al-

two weeks' wages by his club. He back Tosh McKinlay, who has failed another drugs test earlier this season, but escaped punishment after claiming a drink had been spiked.

The veteran Everton goalkeeper Neville Southall bas joined Stoke City on a month's loan and is expected to make his debut in the Potteries derby against Port Vale tomorrow. However, Stoke have lost the services of the Scotland fullbeen recalled by Celtic. Liverpool's Czech midfield-

er Patrik Berger has expressed an interest in a move to the Portuguese club Benfica, whose coach is Graeme Souncss.

Brazil are the latest conntry to state an interest in hosting the 2006 World Cup finals - joining England, Germany and South Africa as potential

#### Dibble steps up to replace Schwarzer

MIDDLESBROUGH are travelling well this season, and today's visit to Nottingham Forest gives them a chance of a fourth away win in a row, which would extend their lead at the top over Forest to six points.

They will have to do it with- pected to keep the side that won out goalkeeper Mark Schwarz- at the McAlpine Stadium. or, who apprenated a thigh injury during the victory over Crewe in midweek. The former Welch international, Andy Dibhle, steps up for his first appearance of the season. Nigel Pearson will return after injury hut Andy Townsend and Paul Merson face fitness tests.

The Forest manager, Dave bassett, nas a lew injury doubts himself, with Scot Gemmill's ankle and Steve Stone's hamstring. Steve Chettle is set to return after missing the mid-

Bridges to the squad that beat Huddersfield last Tuesday for the visit of Ipswich, who are not far behind in sixth place. Both Williams and Bridges proved their fitness in the reserves in midweek, but Peter Reid is ex-

Tony Mowbray the Ipswich captain, is struggling with a groin strain, but he is the only worry for the manager, George Burley, who has Adam Tanner standing by. The England Under-21 goalkeeper, Richard Wright, will play despite 13 stitches in his face, while the striker James Scowcroft will be on the beach as Burley again pairs the in-iorm Alex Mathie and David Johnson.

At the other end of the table, Paul Hall and Fitzroy Simpson, who have spent the last six games on international duty for Jamaica, are both available for

month.

John Morrissey from suspension, while defender Alan Morgan it also likely to play despite being in pain from a knec injury.

are Manchester City, whose veteran defender Ian Brightwell will miss the visit of West Bromwich with a hamstring recurrence. Murtaz Shelia and Richard Edghill are also struggling to be fit, though slightly more encouraging for the City manager, Joe Royle, is Georgi Kinkladze's recovery from an ankle injury.

Lee Hughes has been ruled

out for West Brom with a ham-

string problem suffered during

Tuesday's defeat to Portsmouth.

The second secon

Central defender Matt Carbon as many games as possible with

PAUL GASCOIGNE is a surprise contender for a place in when they face their title rivals Hearts at Ibrox.

match against Dundee

Gascoigne, however, is making good progress from the knock and is quietly confident of playing some part today. "I hadn't anticipated that

Gazza could be fit for this game," Smith said yesterday. 1 didn't think he would be in a position to take a fitness test. But he will have one in the morning and we are hopeful that he will come through it all right."

Gascoigne is anxious to play

but has had to endure a frus-

Rangers' 26 League games and the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, is likely to have noted that he seems to be short of match practice.

Swark however, could do with an in-form Gascoigne to revive his side's fortunes and the Hearts match would be as good a game as any to display his wide range of skills.

Rangers may be without Brian Laudrup today, after the Dane picked up a calf injury in the Kilmarnock match. Hearts overtook Rangers in

the League on Wednesday after a spirited 3-1 victory against Aberdeen. They are second to the leaders Celtic on goal difference, and two points clear of the champions.

Darren Williams and Michael mere. The former Southampton is set to return after a thigh strain. the World Cup approaching Jansen, has sensed a growing best for ourselves,"

#### Rangers encouraged by Gascoigne recovery

self-belief among his men both in themselves and, significantly, in each other, that Celtic can lift their first Scottish title for a decade, After emphatic home victo-

ries against Kilmarnock and Dunfermline, Celtic travel to the bottom club Hibernian today in positive mood, with the fluid system Jansen has devised paying dividends. He said: "The most impor-

tant thing about the 5-1 win against Dunfermline on Wednesday is the confidence that we showed. We really enjoyed the game. "Everybody wants to be in

the team, have a good performance and win the game and that desire is the vital for us at the moment. "The players know we can do it but we have to do it by our-

selves. We should just look to ourselves and try to do the

week draw at Tranmere. Sunderland, in third place, four points behind Forest, add Portsmouth, who entertain Tran-

defender Matt Robinson makes his bome debut and, Steve Claridge, on loan from Leicester City. continues in attack after having his period extended to a second

Tranmere welcome back One place above Pompey

Rangers' starting line-up today

ready been suspended and fined

The England midfielder limped off with an ankle injury during the 1-1 draw against Kilmarnock in midweek and his manager, Walter Scattle, thought that he would be ruled out until 9 March and the Scottish Cup

trating season on and off the pitch and his form has dipped. He has started only 13 of

Celtic's head coach, Wim



rs trade with

arts flowers

THE host nation's defeat in this week's semi-finals of the African Nations' Cup saved Philippe Troussier from an awkward situation in today's final in Ouagadougou.

The much-travelled Frenchman worked wonders to steer Burkina Faso through the firstround group stage - against expectations - and to the last four, where they lost on penalties to Egypt. But his time in charge of the Burkinabe is over - next week he hegins his new joh as the coach of South Africa, who face the Egyptians in the final.

Today's match will Jomo Sono's last in charge of the South Africans. He took over as caretaker coach when Clive Barker, who took the reigning African champions to the World Cup finals, resigned, but he knew his appointment was temporary.

trophy, I just want to take it home," Sono said after his side's semi-final victory over the Democractic Republic of Congo, adding that his aim had been to prove domestic critics, who said that the team would never win anything with a South African-born coach, wrong. Asked whether he would work with Troussier, he replied: "I will think about it later on."

As for Troussier, known throughout West Africa as the "White Witchdoctor", he was proud of his current team's achievements. "Burkina Faso is a poor country economically but it is very rich in other senses. I am very proud to have taken state at the time. charge of this team and to have got them to this level," he said.

Burkina Faso's hig problem was scoring enough goals which is not something that should worry Troussier when he takes over as South Africa's Pro Sport said. "A public person coach. Benedict McCarthy may as the national team trainer has be only 20, but he already has to be 'clean'." a huge reputation. Now with



#### FOOTBALL AROUND THE WORLD BY RUPERT METCALF

Ajax, he scored four goals in 12 minutes in a first-round match agamst Namihia plus two in Wednesday's semi-final. Both McCarthy and Egypt's veteran "If God helps me to win the striker, Hossam Hossan, have each hit seven goals in the Nations' Cup so far - two short of the record that Zaire's Mulamha Ndayé set in 1974.

THE appointment of Victor Piturca as Romania's new national coach has not met with universal approval in Bucharest.

The former Under-21 coach; who will replace Anghel Iordanescu after the World Cup when the latter becomes the coach of Greece, spent two months in jail in 1981 for gamhling, which was illegal in Nicolae Ceausescu's Communist

One might think that such a record would increase his credibility in the new Romania, but it seems not. "From a moral point of view, Piturca is not the right person," the newspaper

# 'Chairman wanted

resign, as he had done on two be turned.

chairman and Villa's secretarypersuade him to change his mind, he said.

Stride tried at length to persuade me to stay on Tuesday. I know they did not want me to that people reckon 1 would go," he said. "I have had noth- damage my relationship with ing hut support from him.

"But I had made up my mind and I still feel that I made the right decision. The team's performances were being affected in an adverse way such was the Savo Milosevic: "The chairman speculation about things.

"But I repeat - I have never had anything other than 100 man and I am deeply upset that people should think otherwise. The chairman forced me out? Nothing could be further

"But I will say to anyone that right to keep them that way. In

he had been hurt by reports that he had forced Little out to re-

said. "It is hurtful to me to think

the strikers Stan Collymore and always allowed me to buy who I wanted to buy."

managed it twice."

### QUOTES OF THE WEEK

 People want to try to find a new Pela. They couldn't do that. You don't find another Beethoven, you have only one Michelangelo. In music you have only one Frank Sinatra and in football you have only one Pele. Pele.

 Any player judged a failure in the first team is likely to find himself among the reserves at Preston on a wet Wednesday evening. That includes Stan. John Gregory, new Aston VIIla manager, on Stan Collymore. John Gregory would fine you for not wearing flip-flops in the showers. Dave Carroll, of Wycombe Wanderers, on his former manager.

• I lay awake all night trying

to re-run the 90 minutes in my head. But all I can remember is my goals - and they will be framed forever in my dreams. Scott Jones, Barnsley's two-goal hero, on knocking Man-chester United out of the FA

It was clearly a case of sour grapes on the part of a few sad characters who must have nothing better to do with their lives. Gordon Strechen, Coventry manager, on being reported for swearing by Southampton fans.

That bronze medal is worth its weight in gold. Paul Dickenson, BBC commentator, on Britain's Olympic success in the four-man bobsleigh.



102 days...

and counting until the World Cup finals begin in France

CHRIS SUTTON is by no means the unly footballer in Europe with an over-inflated ego. The Anderlecht midfielder Enzo Scifo said this week that he would not play international football again after being left out of Belgium's squad for a friendly against the United States.

"The news has deeply disappointed me. I never again want to play under [the Belgium coach Georges] Leekens," the 32year-old Scifo said. He added that Leekens

was showing "a lack of respect". Scifo, capped 79 times, made his dehut for the Belgian national side in 1984 and played in the past three World Cup finals. He has also played for Internazionale, Bordeaux, Auxerre, Torino and Monaco.

Leekens said last weekend that he wanted to experiment in the friendlies against the States on Wednesday, which his side won 2-0, Norway on 25 March and Romania on 22 April. But he added that the players called up for the match against the Americans were not guaranteed a place in his squad for the World Cup finals.

"If Scifo cannut accept that we experiment, that's his problem," Leekens said. 'He is choosing the wrong way to express his opinion."

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# me to stay' - Little

BRIAN LITTLE was yesterday from the truth. I said there had husy clearing up the circum- been certain things going on bestances of his surprise departure hind the scenes that led to as manager of Aston Villa on things being difficult for me and Tuesday. No, he was not pushed; it has been suggested that was in fact Doug Ellis, the chairman, a direct reference to the chairhad pleaded with him not to man. previous occasions, Little said. that is wrong. Those things

This time, however, he could not were personal and I retain the Little visited Ellis at his more than three years togethhome on Thursday where the er we have not had a problem." Ellis himself was deadly sedirector. Steve Stride, tried to rious yesterday, contending that

"Both he [Ellis] and Steve place him with John Gregory. "It's all terrible lies," Ellis

> Brian in any way like that." Little added that Ellis had supported fully his transfer dealings, including the purchases if

Little added: "There is no seper cent support from the chair-cret that we have talked about my position in the past but the chairman did everything he could to talk me out of it - and

> We've got 50 pairs of tickets to the World Cup Final courtesy of Master Card up for grabs.

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# Irwin still eager after all these years reg

'If you don't have desire here you'll soon be on your way, Manchester United's quiet survivor tells Glenn Moore

THURSDAY at The Cliff, Manchester United's training ground, the morning after the FA Cup defeat to Barnsley. At many clubs the first team would have the day off but United's are training, not as a punishment but to ease postmatch stiffness - besides, half the first team had not played at Oakwell.

Behind the metal barriers around 50 fans, undeterred by the raw wind. watch the session, admire the cars and wait for autographs. By the wheelie bin, a local radio reporter interviews Gary Neville, nearby reps from Unihro and Diadora bover.

Alex Ferguson, with an appointment elsewhere, leaves Brian Kidd in charge of shonting practice and heads off. On the way out he slows to ask, partly to be sociable, partly from his desire to know every aspect of United husiness: "Who are you waiting for?"

"Denis Irwin," I reply. "Oh aye," said the United manager before driving away, no doubt thinking: "That's OK, solid, dependable Denis won't say anything controversial."

And he does not, except for the admission that the manager's rotation policy affects performance, which has been clear to most observers the past six weeks. But the perceptive Irwin can offer, in his soft Irish accent, the insights garnered from nearly eight years at Old

Irwin, now 32, was in at the start of United's years of plenty. The manager rates his £650,000 signing from Oldham (Joe Royle, then Oldham manager, addressed Ferguson as "Robber" for months after) on a par with Eric Cantona and Peter Schmeichel for value for money. Only the Dane, Brian McClair and Gary Pallister have played more games under Ferguson.

This morning, at Stamford Bridge, he plays his 370th, with another, even higger match against Monaco in Monte Carlo on Wednes-

After so many medals, and enough in the bank to secure his famhunger? As Brian Little discovered to his cost this season, not every

It is, he said as we sat in the spartan canteen, not so much the winning as the fear of losing that drives Unitthe desire here. If you don't you'll cess but we've also had a lot of failures: we've lost two League titles, two League Cups, an FA Cup.

The feeling you get after the game when you just miss out, like we had at West Ham when a draw meant Blackburn pipped Manches-ter United to the 1994/95 title], is not something you want to go through again. As a successful team you are always going to have periods when you miss out. They are oot nice but you need them. Last night was a dis-



Photograph: Peter Jay

competition in the world and it is still important to us.

pre-season friendlies. Our club is ing victories by 4-0, 4-1 and 5-3. under so much scrutiny we are always up for it. It is unusual for us to slip up against lesser teams as we have smaller clubs and you wonder why because every game is a big game for

"Some games," he concedes, "are higger than others. It's more of a sixa too team so there'll be a hit of an edge. You just hope you doo't get a 50-50 with Sparky [former team-mate, Mark Hughes]. It's always banded

Indeed, Chelsea may be unbeat-

the knee injury caused by Paul Bosvelt's now infamous "tackle". recently. Liverpool seem to lose to Apart from his faxed commiseration there has been no further contact from the Dutchman hut Irwin

appears to regard it as part of the job. The injury meant Irwin missed the Turin defeat which enabled Juvenpointer on Saturday. They've become tus to qualify for the last eight and he admits that result may haunt United. First, Monaco have to be dealt with. "It's a tough game. A lot of people say it's a good draw for us but appointment. We'll miss that trip to around that we have a bad record they're going well in quite a tough

Wembley. It is the greatest cup against Chelsea but I don't think we ... league. They look a decent side with ... United approach the tic out of alyears before Keane, going to Leeds a lot of pace up front in [Thieny] Henry and [Victor] Ikpeba. Then What helps us in the long run is en at Old Trafford in five seasons but there's the big lad [David] Trezeguet that every game is like a final no mat- United have won four of the the last and John Collins, who can run and ed on. "The players will always have ter who you are playing - even the five matches in the capital, includ- run and has a great left foot. It helps being at home in the second leg."

England expects and Irwin says the same is true within the club. "We have a lot more confidence after qualifying so easily from a tough group and with the extra experience of the young lads. The home win over Juventus was a big game for us; they had turned us over twice last year. Yet last year we had as good a chance of winning as any, we struggled through the League so expectation was low, but we hammered Porto and were very unfortunate to go out to Dortmund in the semi-final. We had a lot of chances in both games."

quality in the squad shows in the way we've coped without Eric [Can- part of his career as success. tona], Roy [Keane], Maysie [David May], Jordi [Cruyff] and Karel [Poborsky]. But we have missed Roy this last month and Giggsy is a big loss. He gives us pace and cre-

this year as any." Irwin came over from Cork sever- about it."

ativity and he's been playing as well

form and with injuries, the latest to where, after 72 League games, he was succumb being Ryan Giggs. "We've surprisingly released by Billy Bremnyear. We're still creating chances. baller, he contemplated heading back Rotating the squad makes it more to Ireland but Royle and Oldham resdifficult but the manager likes to cued him. The memory remains, howkeep us fresh this time of year. The ever, and he makes the point that disappointment has been as much a

As well as United's near-misses he has only qualified for one of four major tournaments with the Republic of home, especially at this stage of the Ireland, the 1994 World Cup, having won the first of 47 caps following Italia 90. Now 32, he said: "Missing out on this year's World Cup was a hig dis-Keane had been out training, hit-appointment; I probably won't get anting the ball well for an injured play- other chance. It's amazing how age er. "He looks good," said Irwin. "He's . creeps up on you. The years fly by and just started joining in little things." you get older without even thinking

One bonus is his low public profile. "You have a different way of life as you get older. The young lads take had a dip but not like October last er at the age of 20. A useful Gaelic foot- most of the spotlight, the older lads can just get on with life."

For Irwin this primarily means relaxing with his family. "The manager doesn't encourage you to play golf, he feels it can get to your legs. It is a long way around the golf course when you don't play very well. It is drilled into you to relax when you go season. A lot of people get the idea it's an easy life but there is a lot of mental preparation, especially for

Aye, that's solid, dependable Denis talking. He may not shift many shirts in the superstore but the foothall men at Manchester United know his worth.

# Short-sighted clubs unfit to progress

IT MUST have been galling ment Premiership clubs can for Joe Royle to bear the use. And that just makes re-Manchester City fans deriding his players as oot fit to wear the shirt at Elm Park on Wednesday night, particularly since "fit" could have been meant in more ways than one. One of Royle's first observations on filling the Maine Road bot seat was that the players were unfit, which makes you wonder about the remit of Frank Clark's fitness

Mind you, "fitness coach" is something of an arbitrary term in English fontball, since it can refer to anyone from Arnaido Longaretti, the Italian who Blackburn Rovers players claim has made all the difference to their staying power, to the wily ex-pros who make the lower league lads sweat a bit the morning after the heavy night before.

If you think I'm being flippant, bear in mind roughly 12 per cent of a rugby union club's annual playing budget is allocated to equipment, sports science and medical support, while the same figure at a typical Premiership cluh is often as low as 0.5 per cent - so just imagine what the clubs in Divisions Two and Three cough up.

In mitigation they can ill af-

search published as little as two years ago, which found no discernible difference between the fitness levels of teams from the Premiership, the Third Division and non-League, all the more surprising. Also, leading football fit-

ness expert Professor Tom Reilly examined data obtained from footballers of the 1970s 1980s and 1990s and could hardly tell the difference. This despite the fact that the pace of the game has changed so radically over the last 25 years that "the playmaker who stands on the ball and sprays it everywhere after five pints and a cigar in the pub simply doesn't exist anymore". Who says so? Joe Royle.

It seems short-sighted of clubs that spend millions of pounds on players (who they pay almost as much in a week as the average fitness coach earns in a year) to invest so sparingly in facilities to ensure their prize assets remain in peak condition. Christian Gross is reputed to have laughed when he first clapped cyes on Spurs' gymnasium. while the gym facilities at another top London club are so poor its star players are forced



ON THE FOOTBALLER'S CONDITION

has caused a change in the last few years. Experts like Arscnal's fitness coach, Boro Primorac, who arrived via Grampus Eight and Cannes, have set about conditioning British players to European standards. And they should know. As Mike Walker once said; "You don't see an unfit European side. They're all gaunt and look like athletes."

Of course Walker's side, Norwich, have their very own But at least the Continent and pasta medley is infinitely yards. As a professional foot-must make Joe Royle green.

preferable to fish and chips if baller, however, he was boyyou are an athlete - which professional footballers are supposed to be. But then dieticians, and

even masseurs and reflexologists, are far more commonplace at clubs than full-time fitness experts. It would be wrong to suggest there are no Brits around who could do the job. Chelsea still employ former Olympic sprinter Ade Mafe, hrought in by Ruud Gullit to address the "cardiovascular element" of their game (which sounds like another Italian import), while Alan Sugar has allegedly been whispering sweet nothings in the ear of decathlete Daley Thompson, currently training the Wimbledon reserves, in the hope of persuading him to fill the role originally created for Swiss fitness expert Fritz Schmidt. Obviously what's good enough for Wimbledon's reserves is good enough for Spurs.

Less well-known is George McNeill. a man who could have surpassed the combined has meticulously studied trainachievements of Thumpson and Mafe had he not been so fleet of fout in an era when nutritional expert, aka athletics was bound by the Panathinaikos, and built them Britain's favourite foodie amateur code McNeill won Delia Smith, who has appar- the New Year Sprint in 1970, ently convinced the likes of then clocked a world record Darren Eadie that three bean time of 11.14sec over 120 Manchester United are, which

cotted by athletics, and now puts his skills to good use as fitness coach tn Scottish Second Division side Livingston.

It would be anfair, too, to suggest players don't appreciate the importance of fitness: in a survey published tast year players agreed it was the key component of training. It's just that old habits die hard; hence the reason why the notion of a faith healer, as vaunted by Glenn Hoddie, has been so cautiously received. Hoddle would no doubt claim physical and mental fitness have a symbiotic relationship, which is true of players like Kenny Dalglish who, according to Boh Paisley, ran the first five yards in his head onyway. Of course, the team who

have lasted the pace the best is Manchester United, whose assistant manager, Brian Kidd, is a fitness expert. Kidd has the hest of both worlds. Respected by the players for hisachievements in the game, he ing methods at clubs like Ajax, Bayern Munich, Auxerre, Milan and luternazionale and into his teachings at The Cliff. It's just one more example of how far ahead of the game

#### More than a game, a religion OUR first chance of a league City is that it is not just local to rejoin the Irish League was

title in 98 years and I am working in England. Bloody typical. As a supporter for over 30 years I have certainly seen a lot of changes in Cliftonville. As the only team with a Catholic following in Northern Ireland sometimes it has been hard although, to be honest, some of it has been our own fault. But still, a league title. To understand the full significance of this a short

history lesson is needed. Cliftonville FC is the oldest football club in Ireland. It is based precariously in North Belfast in the infamous murder mile. Only last month two people were shot, one dead, in the Clifton Tavern, directly opposite our ground, called, would you believe, Solitude. One of life's little ironies that. considering the crowds we used to get in the 1970s.

Now, however, the good times are back. We average about 2,000 per home game and can take up to 1,000 away. The Irish League is split up into a Premier and First Division. The Premier has 10 teams who play each other four times. Of these 10. no less than four, including ourselves, are Belfast teams. So local derbies are common. What makes them different than, say, Manchester United v Manchester City or even Bristol Rovers v Bristol

pride that is at state Cliftonville are supported by mainly Nationalists; the other three-Linfield, Glentoran and Crusaders - by Unionists. indeed, Linfield, who own Windsor Park, the home of Northern Ireland, had until recently a clause in their constitution forbidding them to sign Catholics. Crusaders have had a policeman shot while on crowd duty and Glentoran are situated in the Protestant heartland of East

FAN'S EYE VIEW NO 246 CLIFTONVILLE STEPHEN MAGEE

Belfast. When Bill Shankly uttered his famous adage that "football is more important than life" he may have had Northern Ireland in mind.

Cliftonville represent Nationalist hopes in the Irish League by dint of the fact that the other two predominantly Catholic supported clubs are no longer in the league. Derry City, who can attract crowds of between 5,000 and

scuppered by persons nnknown for sectarian reasons. The other club, Belfast Celtic, disbanded in 1956 after a sectarian mob invaded the pitch and attacked the players during a game with Linfield. This incident was replicated in the early 1990s when junior club Donegal Celtic played Linfield in the Irish Cup and players were attacked on the pitch.

That is the nature of following a club here. It is not just football. It is about cultural identity and more, and, if it goes all the way to the wire, our last game of the season is at Portadown. This is the home town of the murdered Loyalist Volunteer Force leader, Billy Wright. Last year our coaches were stoned on the way to the ground and the match abandoned at half-time when our players refused to come out for the second half, fearing for the safety of the crowd. Polities and sport don't mix, eh? Explain that to the followers. of clubs here

But what of our league chances. Four points clear with eight to play. Just imagine, Cliftonville could be in the European Cup. What a 10,000, now play in the in the preliminary round... dream. And who could we get League of Ireland. There are Rangers. Now that is a rumours that their application thought.

مكذا من الاصل

JOHN GREGORY probably has spent 16 months taking thought someone was pulling his leg when Doug Ellis rang him up this week - "Of course I'd love to manage Aston Villa. Look, the joke's over, who is this?" - and he could be forgiven for feeling a little disorientated again this afternoon.

This time last week he expected to be plotting Gillingham's downfall in the Second Division. This afternoon, instead, be will be trying to arresi Villa's fall against Liverpool and, with all due respect to the Gills' Adeola Akinbiyi, he is oo Michael Owen.

If Gregory feels it is strange he has replaced Brian Little, he is not alone. The Villa fans are wondering, too, why a man who

Wycombe to mid-table obscurity is qualified for one of the biggest managerial jobs in English football, and there will be pressure on the new man today. Not just to stop the club being embroiled in the Premiership's relegation battle but to justify his appointment.

if Villa go down to their fifth defeat in six League matches but yesterday Gregory, a former player and part of Little's management team until October 1996, was, naturally, upbeat. "I will do whatever it takes to win a game and ensure our Premiership survival," he

said. "But I also like to be

The pressure is on the Premiership's newest manager today, says Guy Hodgson, while Nick Harris (below) analyses the team news for this weekend's programme Who know how to pass the hall Chelsea meet Manchester appearance of heing held to- to score his first League goal "Apart from Stan Collymore United at 11.15 this morning and

and Simon Grayson, it is very much the same set of players who were here before I left. They don't have any less abili-It could be a baptism of ire ty than they did two season's Roy Evans might demur.

Two seasons ago his Liverpool side appeared to be heading for great things, disappointment being the only one that has lived up to the bill. Lose again today and even qualification for the Ucia Cup might look difficult but at least the match will be was sacked by Portsmouth and enough people in the side result from Stamford Bridge.

the pack chasing the latter, of which Liverpool are a part, will have forn emotions. If United are to be caught then their defeat is an imperative. On the other hand, if they are going to run away with the title anyway then it would be preferable if Chelsea

suffer a reverse. In contrast there will be unequivocal emotions at the Bridge, where Chelsea will be desperate to avenge last cause United's squad has the would like nothing more than against Southampton David

gether with bits of string such of the season at the ground are their injury problems. At a where he suffered the ankle pinch, Alex Ferguson might risk players like Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt and Ronny Johnsen but with a European Cup quarterfinal in Monaco on Wednesday he will probably think the gamble is too great.

Everton are another team hoping to avenge an FA Cup reverse, although the visit of Newcastle will bring diverse sub-plots with it. Gary Speed, month's 5-3 defeat there in the the erstwhile captain at Good-FA Cup. No time would appear ison, is guaranteed a hostile reentertaining and there are played with knowledge of the to better than the present be-ception while Alan Sbearer

injury last July which cost him five months of opportunity.

Blackburn, a club chasing Manchester United, entertain the Fagins of the Leicester who have become experts at picking up a point or two in their travels, having lost away only four times this season. The home side - no wins in five matches - must also overcome the absence of the suspended

Kevin Gallacher. Leeds have absentee problems for their home game

and Lee Bowyer are suspeoded, Lucas Radebe is away with South Africa and David Hopkin, Lee Sharpe and Derek Lilley are injured. "We'll have a bead count and whoever is available will play," their manager, George Graham, said.

The new £1.3m signing. Martin Hiden, could be among

Following Wednesday's win over Manchester United in the FA Cup, Barnsley come down to earth against Wimbledon. They are unbeaten at home since November but are five points adrift of safety at the bottom of the table and manager Danny Wilson, once the midweek euphoria had dissipated.

commented: "If I said I would

Wetherall, Alf Inge Haland swap everything in the Cup for the points, people would say I'm a miserable bugger. Well that's the way I am because we earn our living in the League."

Coventry travel to Crystal Palace boping to extend their club record six successive victories while Derby, another team with Europe unexpectedly coming into focus, entertain Sheffield Wednesday.

Tottenham and Bolton are unlikely to require much motivatioo tomorrow at White Hart Lane. Defeat for Spurs would drop them into the bottom three while the visitors cannot allow a gap to appear between themselves and the fourth-bottom team. And John Gregory thought be was under

#### Aston Villa v Liverpool

New Aston Villa manager John Gregory will be without striker Savo Milosevic as he takes charge for his first game today. The Yugoslavian international is out of contention with medial knee ligament damage suffered during Villa's 2-1 defeat at Wimbledon last week Gregory also has worries over the fitness of three more key firstteam players - striker Dwight Torke (calf), midfielder Mark Draper (ankle) and utility player Steve Staunton (hamstring) are all struggling to recover and rated as doubtful

Liverpool are hoping that karlhein: Riedle will have shaken off a foot mjury in time to replace Robbie Fowler, who will be out for six months with cruciate ligament damage sustained in the Merseyside derby. The German striker has been a frustrated substitute for long penods this season because Roy Evans has persisted with the Fowler-Michael Owen partnership, and Riedle has started only once in Liverpool's last 16 matches. Stig-Inge Bjornebye returns after international duty, Jason McAteer, Phil Babb and Dominic Matteo are definitely out. Paul Ince and Steve McManaman are slight doubts.



#### Barnsley v Wimbledon

Last season: No fixture

Barnsley striker John Hendrie (ankle) and defender Nicky Eaden (chest infection) will both undergo late fitness tests before today's game. Hendrie has "improved greatly" after limping out of Wednesday's FA Cup fifth-round win over Manchester United but is unlikely to play to make sure he is fit for the sixth-round tie at Newcastle next weekend, Jan-Age Fjortoft should return in his place. Arjan de Zeeuw is also unlikely to figure despite being close to full fitness following a groin problem, while fellow centre-back Chris Morgan is available again after completing a two-game ban.

Defender Duncan Jupp injured himself during Wimbledon's midweek FA Cup fifth-round replay defeat against Wolves and may miss the trip to Oakwell. His place may be taken by Kenny Cunningham who could return to the starting line-up following a recent ankle injury. lamaican international midfielder Robbie Earle is struggling for fitness and is thought unlikely that the Wimbledon vice captain will play. The Dons are looking to complete a hat-trick of Premiership wins, while Bamsley are looking to move off the bottom of the table.



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#### Blackburn v Leicester

Leading scorer

Blad:burn will be without striker Kevin Gallacher, who starts a threematch ban. Goalkeeper Tim Flowers is also out with a shoulder injury and Anthony Williams has been recalled from a month's loan at CIPR to act as cover for Alan Fettis. Billy McKinlay is a major doubt. with the calf injury which forced him to be substituted after just 20 minutes of Wednesday's FA Cup replay against West Ham. He will have a late fitness test before today's match. Stuart Ripley and Gary Croft are both suffering from fatigue but are expected to play. Lars Bohmen returns from international duty.

Lexester City manager Martin O'Neill will wait for fitness reports on three key defenders. Swedish international Pontus Kamark faces a late test on an Achilles injury while Matt Elliott and Spencer Prior have had a virus. Tony Cottee is doubtful with a harnstring strain but goalkeeper Kasey Keller returns after missing the last two matches on international duty with the United States. Leicester would move to within two points of their hosts with a win. Blackburn have won once in the last five Premiership games.



#### Chelsea v Man Utd

Leading score

Ed De Goey returns for Chelsea after international duty. De Goey, a Premiership ever-present before missing last week's 2-0 defeat at Leicester, will replace Dmitri Kharin, Gianluca Vialli is likely to persevere with the policy of playing himself, Mark Hughes and Gianfranco Zola together, even though the diminutive Italian has not scored for three months. A win for Chelsea could leave them second in the Premiership tonight, and eight points behind United. Defeat would

leave them 14 points adrift with 11 games remaining. Norwegian duo Henning Berg and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer return for Manchester United but the champions are still waiting on the fitness of England midfielder Nicky Butt. Berg missed Wednesday's 1-0 FA Cup defeat at Barnsley because he was away on international duty and Solskjaer has recovered from the virus which kept him out of the last three games. However Butt is still suffering from a calf injury while Paul Scholes and Ryan Giggs are unfit and David May is unlikely to be risked. Michael Clegg, Michael Twiss, Ben Thornley and John Curtis should be in the squad but are unlikely to start.



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C Palace v Coventry

Leading scorer Last season: No fixure

Crystal Palace may give a debut to Matt Jansen, who is in the squad today following his £1 m move from Carlisle. The 20-year-old is available after being cup-tied for the 2-1 midweek FA Cup defeat against Arsenal Manager Steve Coppell welcomes back Marcus Bent, who was also cup-tied, but is still without long-term casualties Attilio Lombardo, Michele Padovano, Neil Shipperley and Paul Warhurst. Jamie Smith suffered an ankle injury in the cup match but is expected to be fit. Palace have yet to win at home in the League this season,

while Coventry are looking for a seventh consecutive win. Coventry manager Gordon Strachan will give late fitness tests to David Burrows and Richard Shaw, who both have groin injuries, before naming his side for today. Shaw has missed the last three games, while Burrows collected his injury during last weekend's 1-0 win against Barnsley. "One result might change everything and we have to make sure that result is not against us," said Strachan yesterday. "We have got to be professional and keep our good form going." Coventry have an otherwise unchanged squad.

#### And statistics

#### How Dalglish has slipped behind Keegan

Their clubs are at opposite ends of the Premiership spectrum, but Alex Ferguson and Joe Kinnear have at least one factor in common: the men at the helm of Manchester United and Wimbledon respectively are the only two managers who have been in charge of teams ever since the Premiership started.

Ferguson, not surprisingly, is the most successful manager in terms of Premiership points won. Indeed, he is the only manager to have averaged more than two points per game. Kinnear is a highly respectable eighth

While Kenny Dalglish is the second most successful of the current crop of managers, his predecessor at Newcastle,

Alex Ferguson (Manchester United)

Arsene Wenger (Arsenal)

Jim Smith (Derby)

Roy Hodgson (Blackburn)

Rey Evans (Liverpeol)

George Graharp (Arsenal/Leeds)

Joe Kinnear (Wimbledon)

Gordon Strachan (Coventry)

Harry Redknapp (West Ham)

David Jones (Southampton)

Christian Gross (Tottenham)

Steve Coppeli (Crystal Palace)

Howard Kendall (Everton)

Colin Todd (Bolton)

Oanny Wilson (Barrisley)

Gianluca Vialli (Chelsea)

John Gregory (Aston Villa)

Kevin Keegan (Newcastle)

Bruce Rioch (Arselfe) Ruud Gullit (Chiefsea) Frank Clark (Nathogram Forest)

Howard Wilkinson Reeds Co

Mike Walker (Nortich Eve

Brian Little (ASTA) VIII Common Sounes Liverpoor

Ray Wilkins (CRS)

Glenn Modelle (Chelsen) Joe Roylle (Oldham/Eve

Trevor Francis

19 C Palace

Ron Atkinson (Villa/Coventry/Sheff W) 173

Martin O'Neilt (Leicester)

Kenny Dalglish (Blackburn/Newcastle)

**How the managers compare** 

Overall Premiership records of the men in charge

161

-<u>171-</u>

27

227

65

...and some of their predecessors

277

239

304

87

71

34

• ጎበ6

Kevin Keegan, had a marginally more successful record.

Dalolish's floures are spoilt by his comparatively poor performance during the current campaign: he is averaging only 1.27 points per game compared with 1,87 points last season and his own overall average of

Brian Little, who left Aston Villa earlier this week, had also shown a substantial drop on his figures from a year ago: under his charge this season Villa had averaged only 1.11 points per game compared with 1.61 last season and Little's own overall average

Points Points

2.08

1.83

1.26

1.26

1.22

1.06

1.02

0.85

**Points Points** 

per game

1.85

1.66

1.65

1.49

1.44

1.43

1.42

Ron Atkinson - who apart from

Ferouson and Kinnear is the only man to have managed a Premiership club for at least part of all six Premiership seasons shows the best improvement on a year ago. At Coventry last season Big Ron averaged only 0.70 points per game; at Sheffield Wednesday he is now averaging 1.69 points.

The other managers showing significant improvements on their average points yield of last season are West Ham's Harry Redknapp (up from 1.11 to 1.50), Derby's Jim Smith (up from 1.21 to 1.56), Leeds' George Graham (up from 1.18 to 1.50), Leicester's Martin O'Neill (up from 1.24 to 1.48) and Arsenal's Arsene Wenger (up from 1.70 to 1.88).



#### **Everton v Newcastle**

Last season: 2-0

Don Hutchison will make his Everton debut after completing his £I m move from Sheffield United. Howard Kendali's team will be without captain Duncan Ferguson, who starts a three-match ban, while Nick Barmby is still suffering from a groin strain. Frenchman Mickael Madar and youngster Danny Cadamarteri will lead the attack in place of them. Terry Phelan attempted a comeback in a midweek reserve match, but suffered a reaction and will now have an exploratory operation on his calf problem. Everton have drawn three

Newcastle will be without Alessandro Pistone (suspended) and Steve Watson (ankle). Otherwise the Magpies are at full strength. Gary Speed returns to his former club three weeks after completing a £5.5m move to Tyneside as Newcastle seek their third I-O victory over the Toffees this season. Alan Shearer has scored four goals since returning from injury, although all have been in the FA Cup. "If I can help towards three points by scoring a goal or two at Goodison I

#### **Leeds v Southampton**

Leading scorer

Austrian defender Martin Hiden will make his debut for Leeds, who have defensive womies. Lucas Radebe plays in today's African Nations Cup final for South Africa against Congo, David Robertson remains out after his recent cartilage operation, while David Wetherall starts a two-match ban. Alfie Haland and Lee Bowyer are also suspended while Derek Lilley is still on the injured list. Captain David Hopkin will play after recovering from a calf strain. Leeds have won

once in their last five Premiership games. Kevin Davies (ankle) is a major doubt for Southampton. Egil Ostenstad is likely to continue in attack alongside David Hirst if Davies fails to recover. Carlton Palmer has been cleared to play against his old club after the FA delayed a disciplinary hearing until next month. John Beresford is available after suspension but Ken Monkou is still banned. Paul Jones, ever-present this season, is confident of recovering from a back problem and Francis Benali is hopeful he will shrug off a hamstring injury. Elland Road is the only Premiership ground

EAID DIAVIDACIIE

Of the present crop of

Premiership managers,

Kenny Daiglish's record

is second only to Alex

Ferguson's

Jürgen Klinsmann will return for Tottenham tomorrow, four weeks

after fracturing his jaw. "If anything the injury has allowed me to get even fitter all round," he said yesterday, adding that he had been able to do a lot more pace training to increase his speed. Klinsmann will return to fill the gap left by Les Ferdinand, whose knee injury is likely to keep him out for another couple of weeks. Swiss defender Ramon Vega is still out through suspension and midfielder Stephen Clemence is unavailable with an ankle injury.

Bolton will be without Mark Fish, who is on African Nations Cup duty with South Africa, and midfielder Scott Sellars, who completes a two-match suspension. John Shendan or Dane Michael Johansen will deputise. "Our season could revolve around this one result," said Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, yesterday. "I wouldn't go so far as to say it's the be all and end all, but a win will have a big significance on this club," he added. If Bolton win, they will move out of the relegation zone and send Spurs into it in their place. Bolton also have a game in hand on tomorrow's opponents.

FAIR PLAY LEAGUE	UNFAIR PLAY LEAGUE
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1 G Poli15 7 60 95 633	1 Leeds26 3 59 74 285
2 G Willard 14 4 64 84 600	2 Coventry 27 5 51 76 281
3 M Reed14 2 68 73 5.21	3 Everton27 4 54 74 274
4 G Barber14 3 53 63 486	
5 P Durkin 15 8 55 70 4.67	
6 J Winter 15 2 59 69 460	
7 D Elferaly 14 2 50 60 429	2 0 0 1
8 S Dunn	10 00-11/11
9 P Jones 13 2 44 54 415	10 O-t
10 M RB/ey13 2 42 52 400	40 Pa-14
†iURen-nie15 1 55 60 400	10 Blackburn26 3 41 56 215
12 A William	11 West Ham27 3 43 58 215
13 P Akoock15 1 47 52 3/47	12 Newcastle26 2 42 52 200
14 N Barry13 1 40 46 346	13 Soton
15 G Ashby 15 2 41 51 340	14 Man Utd
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#### Statistics: Brian Sears FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: HOW THEY STAND Upcoming matches W 27 56 +37 11 2 -1 35 6 6 3 4 25 13 7 Mar Shelf Wed (A): 11 Mar West Ham (A): 14 Mar Arstna (H): 28 Mar Wimbledon (H) I Man Utd LLDWW Monday Wist Ham (A), 7 Mar Derby (H); Il Mar Wirbledon (A), 14 Mar Man (Id (A), 7 Mar Bolton (H), 14 Mar Toutestam (H), 28 Mar Benoloy (A), 4 Apr. Astena (H), +19 10 2 2 29 9 3 6 2 16 17 WDWWW 2 Arsenal WDLDD 3 Liverpool 8 Mar Aston Ville (H); 11 Mar C Palace (H); 14 Mar West Hom (A), 5 Apr Cerby (A); 7 Mar Barneloy (H); 18 Mar Leady (A); 14 Mar Ser too (A), 5 Apr Min Lite (A); 4 Chelsea 26 45 +23 WLWLL LWDLL 5 Blackburn HH 8 3 2 30 6 4 6 3 H 5 7 Mar Arsend (A): 15 Mar Leeds (H): 28 Mar Coverny (A): 5 Apr Chekes (H). 14 Mar Windholdon (A): 28 Pile: Bolton (M). 14 Apr Casejary (H): 31 April Chalad (M). 4 Mar Totterham (H): 11 Mar Batcham (H). 15 Mar Dorty (A): 30 Mar West Ham (A) 27 | 42 +7 9 3 1 25 8 3 3 8 16 26 DWLWL 6 Derby 18 5 7 3 6 1 5 3 4 5 2 27 40 DWWDW 7 Luicester LLWLD 8 Leeds Monday Argoni (H): 7 Mar Crystal Palitie (A): 9 West Ham . If Place Phen Util (1-t): 44 Heir Casteins (1-t). M. Place Newcastle (A), 28 Mair Dortry (1-t): 4 Apr Lecoster (A): 18 Apr Astron Wila (1-t): 7 Note: Exercise (Net: 14 Place Steel Wed (A): 28 Place Notescapillo (1-t): 4 Apr Steel Wed (A): 7 Heir Han Util (1-t): M Place Steel Wed (A): 28 Mair Arsenal (A): 4 Apr Southumpton (I-t) 4 April Chaustly (1-t): 28 Place Southumpton (I-t) 4 April Chaustly (1-t): 28 Place Southumpton (A): 18 Har Arsenal (I-t): M Place Lecoster (I-t): 28 Place Arsenal (A): 4 Apr Betton (I-t) 28 Place Longroud (I-t): 6 Mair Cholese (A): DWWWW -3 6 7 1 21 H 4 8 5 23 16 2 3 8 00 2 11 Southampton WLWLW 27 34 -10 7 4 4 25 22 2 3 7 16 29 WDLDW 12 Sheff Wed MIMID 13 Newcastle 26 33 -5 6 4 -5 6 6 3 2 6 10 5 4 3 6 14 16 14 Wimbledon 15 Aston Villa -10 5 3 5 17 18 3 3 8 11 20 LLWLL 7 Mar Southempton (A). 14 Mar Backburn (H 28 Mar Aston Vila (H), 4 Apr Tottenham (A). -8 5 2 5 18 18 2 6 7 14 22 16 Everton **WDDLD** 17 Totterham 7 77 -18 5 4 4 H 16 2 2 10 11 77 -WLWDL Tomorrow Botton (+1); 4 Mar Leeds (A); M Her Liverpool (H);28 Mar Crystal Palece (A): Temotrow Johannam (A), 7 Mar Liverpool (A), 14 Mar Sheff Wed (H), 28 Mar Liverpool (A), 7 Mar West Ham (H), 18 Mar Cheben (A), 19 Mar Aston Villa (A), 28 Mar Texterham (H), 1 18 Bolton -19 3 8 2 11 B | 4 8 12 29 DDLDD

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7 Mar Blackburn (A): 14 Mar Southamp 28 Mar Liverpool (HI): 4 Apr Leeds (A)

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-40 4 3 5 14 22 2 1 11 8 40 ]

**Derby v Sheff Wed** 

Danish defender Jacob Laursen could make a surprise return for Derby, Laursen had an exploratory knee operation II days ago but has been named in the squad. Striker Deon Burton is available again after returning from international duty with jamaica and midfielder lonathan Hunt is back from suspension, but goalkeeper Russell Hoult is out. Hoult is banned following his dismissal in a reserves match, so England Under-18 goalkeeper

Defender Earl Barrett will make his Sheffield Wednesday debut. as the replacement for Ian Nolan, who broke a leg in the 1-0 home win over Tottenham last week. Manager Ron Atkinson could be without Norwegian international midfielder Petter Rudi, who sustained a hamstring strain in a friendly with France on Wednesday. Defender Dejan Stefanovic is also doubtful after he picked up a back strain, also on international duty, in Yugoslavia's game with Argentina. Striker Andy Booth, meanwhile, is fully recovered from a groin injury and could play in his first game for



Richard Knight will be on the bench.



will be extra happy," he said yesterday

and lost one of their last four Premiership games.

that Matt Le Tissier, recovering his form recently, has not scored at.

TOMORROW Tottenham v Bolton Leading scorer Last season: No focure



Saturday 28 February 1998 a

Fourth Test: Third-wicket pair repair early damage inflicted by Headley and Fraser to give home side the advantage

# Lara fires West Indies fightback

**Derek Pringle** 

reports from Georgetown

West Indies 129-2 v England

THREATENED by a bomb scare, and with one of his pace bowlers receiving two official warnings for running on the pitch inside the first hour, Michael Atherton's 50th Test as England captain was threatening yesterday to become memorable for all the wrong reasons. But if England had he better of the early exchanges, the afternoon brought the first real explosions, this time from the middle of Brian Lara's bat as the West Indies captain reached his second half-century of the series.

Eleven innings is a long time go without a big score and his fifty, he clearly feels he is long overdue. Starting slowly, as an archeologist might on a prehistoric dig. he grew bolder by the minute, eventually treating the England bowlers not as precious relics, but as a child might a favourite plaything.

Dancing down the pitch in Robert Croft's 10th over, Lara launched him high over the Sandals pool at wide mid-on. Two overs later, the power was replaced by precision as he picked Croft off for two more boundaries, as the advertising hoardand extra cover. Later, he pulled Dean Headley for six high over midwicket, his confidence finally reunited with his aggressive instincts.

The bomb scare, which came

#### BOURDA SCOREBOARD

First day; West Indies won toss WEST INDIES - First findings S L Campbell C Russell

S C Williams c Thorpe b Fraser.

\*B C Lara not out.

S Chanderpaul not out.

S Chanderpaul not out.

Schanderpaul not out.

Croft 5-1-7-0.

ENGLAND: \*M A Atherton, A J Stewart, M A Butcher, N Hussein, G P Thope, M R Rampraleasth, †R C Russell, R D B Croft, OW Headley, A R C Fraser, P C R Tutnell.

Umptrest S.A. Bucknor (WI) and D. B. Heir (Aus).

Prinst Test (Kingston, Jain): Abandoned as drew (dangerous pitch). Second Rest (Port of Spein, Thin): West Indies won by three wickets. Third Test (Port of Spein): England won by three wickets. REMAINING TESTS: Fifth (Bridge-town, Berbedos): 12-16 March; Sbith (St John's, Antigue): 20-24 March

No. 3546. Saturday 28 February

via an anonymous phone call not long after play started, turned out to be a hoax, which was more than could be said for the warnings of the umpire Steve Bucknor against Headley.

The law, designed to prevent bowlers following through and scuffing up the pitch, relies on two parameters, and any bowler who infringes within 12 inches of middle stump and more than five feet in front of the batting crease is liable to receive a warning. If the bowler does it again he gets another warning, while a third results in an immediate ban for the rest of the innings.

As with most laws in cricket, its interpretation fluctuates with the umpire concerned. In Trinidad, for instance, there was evidence of persistent infor someone of Lara's calibre to fringement by both sides, but no warnings. Here, Headley had judging by the care he took over barely put a spike wrong before Bucknor, no doubt conscious of the friable nature of the pitch, issued him with his first warning in the third over of the day.

> It was not the start Atherton, having lost his first toss of the series, would have wanted with just two front-line seam bowlers in his side. But if his hrow was creased with concern, especially after Headley received a second warning eight overs later, it was tempered by his bowlers' success in the morning

The first batsmen to go was ings were disturbed at fine leg Stuart Williams, who beginning with a crisp cover driven boundary off Angus Fraser and a top-edge six off Headley, was looking his pugnacious self before Fraser struck.

Persevering with that clinical off-stump line of his, the Middlesex seamer squared the opener up, the edge neatly taken by Graham Thorpe, who wisely kept his beady eyes on the ball instead of Alec Stewart's hands, which had encroached from second slip.

Strangely, for a man who fielded superbly in Trinidad, catch an hour later, when he dropped Shivnarine Chanderpaul off Fraser. It proved to be a costly miss, the local hero later passing fifty.

Aside from the bomb scare, which saw England decamp to an area by the sightscreen while Special Branch police combed their dressing-room with electronic devices, it was a morning of caution, with both sides feeling their way on this dry pitch.

For all the potential disruption the warnings might have hrought to other bowlers,



Headley was the pick of the crop. fumbled at mid-on, Sherwin and he consistently beat both Campbell never looked settled. openers with a combination of pace, bounce and movement on eral moral victories to the Kent a surface that looked as dead as paceman, the Barbadian finally the Moon's.

Surviving an early run-out chance when Robert Croft, selected in place of Andy Caddick, batsman tried to check his shot. England, it probably had more

However, having conceded sevsuccumbed to one that bounced

crease, there was a murmur of surprise when he was joined by the left-handed Chanderpaul and not Carl Hooper. Unless this was penitence for Hooper's steeply, the edge carrying chest unexplained absence from high to Jack Russell as the Guyana's recent game against

ing to get their left-handers to the crease before England's exploit outside their off-stumps.

The gamhit appeared to work, at least it did against 100 was posted. But if Lara and

With Lara already at the to do with the home side try- Chanderpaul began in circumspect fashion, the increasingly tell-tale puffs of halls from spinners had enough rough to Headley and Fraser hreaking the pitch's surface saw an acceleration after lunch. With conditions unlikely to improve, Croft, the lone spinner until the England will not relish batting last on it.

Fifa firm on World tickets

Football

FIFA, world football's ruling body, is standing by its controversial ticket policy for the World Cup finals which has left England fans scrambling over a few thousand tickets.

Fifa announced that England would be receiving 9,128 tickets for their three group matches. The Football Association has resolved to fight for more, but Fifa is refusing to shift its position, claiming that it announced two years ago how it would distribute the tickets and that the system is the same used for Italia '90 and USA '94.

"It is highly unlikely that the English FA, or any other national associations, will get a dramatic increase in their allocation," a Fifa spokesman said. "The ticketing system was set up two years ago and everyone knew about it and what the distributions would be then. This ticket policy is not really different from the policy at past World Cups. The differences are that the stadiums were larger in the United States, while America was also further away than France."

The spokesman said that the French public were sold the majority of tickets in advance to ensure the financial viability of the tournament. "You can't sell tickets in advance to other countries if they don't know whether they will qualify," he said. "The French public have as much right to attend games as the English public did in Euro 96."

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The European Commission has threatened to take action against the World Cup organisers for retaining such a large portion of tickets for the French public on the basis that they have broken European law on free trade. A large fine is the most likely outcome, although the ticketing system could be scrapped.

man said: "You can't scrap an entire ticketing system four months before a World Cup. We understand that the French organising committee were in contact with the European Union two years ago when the ticketing system was set up and that this was approved by the EU."

England fans are set to receive more tickets from a reserve batch, but Fifa admits the total will be in the hundreds rather than the thousands.

Security conference, page 6, main section

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

By Spuries

Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution

ACROSS

Something in vitamin B complex if one caught a cold, maybe? (5, 4) When ready constitutes a thing worth having (5)
Theatre sponsor providing

a new set (5) 10 Where you'd find kiln fed from roundabout? (10) 12 Record of heroic deeds completely depicted (4)
Take article to delineate

modern life? (3-4)
Transport that's very cold
in British Columbia, sled with no sides (7)
17 Huge insect bates Ameri-

can attending mass (7)
19 In English company's
record, a study of environmental effects (7)
20 Face turned to side ultimately reveals back of neck (4) Winding up of mine in Mull signals end of an era

(10) 25 Vessel with steps inside one's meant to go up (9) Trick requires deceptive action, nothing less (5) 27 Return of Church Latin

having universal approval (5) 28 Fielding lapse involves

DOWN

One among many World Cup spectators will be charged (5)
Device for multiplication giving almost right result? No way (9)

called on to help with functions? (10) Time student invested in irk-some task? That's a laugh (7)

Inconvenience as plain-clothes officer's upset cham-

Pain one gets around heart, primarily (4) Dismiss early suggestion of trouble in oil reservoir (5) Less-majesty attempt every monarch's prey to (9)
13 Agent used to guard against undue shrinkage of dough

(10) Bring back souvenirs when in France? (9)
16 A treble at Worcester.

maybe? (9) Bored expression initially ev-ident in Oxford Street house ession initially ev-(5-2)
19 Obscure bits from films incloded in middle of speech

(7) 21 Jewel, ruby originally set in ring (5)
23 Parrot flying over Western
Australian river (5)

duced fare (4)

The first five correct solutious to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, I. Casada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: M Jackson, Bolton; D Brough, Wylazz; E Walpole, Wakefield; S Slack, Malvern; D Gillies, Aye.

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laturday 23 February 1998

#### IN MONDAY'S 20-PAGE **SPORTS** SECTION



Mika Hakkinen tells Derick Allsop how he is gearing up for the new Formula One season

TONIGHT

ELEVEN PAGES OF SPORT **BEGIN ON** PAGE 14

O 6 D 6 €

# Union looks to commandeer **Connolly for World Cup**

Rugby By Chris Hewett and Dave Hadfield

GARY CONNOLLY, the Wigan rugby league centre widely regarded as the outstanding British midfield talent of his generation, is in demand from both codes of the game. The Rugby Football Union is investigating the possibility of striking a unique joint deal with the Lancashire club that would enable Connolly to play for England in the 1999 World

Connolly is due to join an Australian league club in June next year, bul a successful RFU-Wigan venture could keep him in Britain. The scheme under discussion would see the RFU buy out the player's Australian Rugby League contract, install til the end of the World Cup and then release him back to Wigan, who would thus retain the sertraction without having to compensate the ARL

The England coach, Clive Woodward, is an admirer of Connolly's; indeed, he consid-

ly. Connolly has worked close- would be in with a realistic shout ly with another member of England's back-room panel, the former Great Britain rughy teague coach, Phil Larder.

However, any attempt to sign Connolly on an RFU contract would automatically infuriate England's leading professional clubs, to whom all players in Woodward's current national squad are contracted. The clubs suspect the governing body of plotting to lure those players away from their club deals and have already fired warning shots across the bows of the RFU hierarchy.

Woodward distanced himself from any move to lure Connolly, insisting yesterday that no approach had been made. "I get letters from rugby league agents all the time and if any of the top English-qualified players decided to join union clubs and him in the England squad unthe national squad, I'd be delighted," he said. "There is not, vices of their top-of-lhe-hill at- on an RFU contract. We're working with the clubs, not against them."

But David McKnight, Concred him a world-class talent have to explore them all. Gary during his hrief spell with Haris is in a unique position because lequins last season. Intriguing- he is the only league player who

of playing in the rugby union World Cup."

Any signing of Connolly by the RFU would be seen as the first hridgehead in the contractual hattle between clubs and country. Talks between the two sides aimed at agreeing a standard player contract to cover both international and domestic rugby have broken down after four months and six sets of draft proposals, and the clubs fear that a big-name signing would encourage the RFU to go after the leading union figures, starting with the national

captain, Lawrence Dallaglio. There are, however, influential figures within the RFU who believe the signing of Connolly would send all the wrong signals to the current batch of England centres and Woodward himself emphasised yesterday: "I'm pretty encouraged by the talent we have coming though, any plan to sign anyone we already have strength in through and I have to say that depth at the top end."

Should Connoily stay with league, sources in Australia nolly's agent, said; "There is a would settle the ARL comhave suggested that Wigan pensation bill and sign the player on a three-year deal worth more than the £250,000 a year he could make in Australia

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# C. BYONAL FUNDACE BETWEEN METERS OF THE STATE OURMONEY

Personal finance, property & motoring

Saturday 28 February 1998

# On Work New knight tickets to save us from chaos

The Government is to appoint a 'super' ombudsman to be the champion of consumers in distress. Darren Behar reports.

A brave knight in sbining armour or, more boringly, a Financial Services Ombudsman - is about to ride to the pay up to £750 for distress or inconrescue of consumers who suffer abuse from financial services firms.

Fifa firm

The ombudsman's appearance, forged out of a coofusing array of lesser ombudsmen, aims to provide mere vassals like ourselves, unversed in the minutiae of financial services regulation, with a single source of redress for our complaints.

In his new role as champion of the people, the knight (sorry, ombudsman) will act as an Artburian hero. change in its entirety. They are also chairing a semi-Camelot consisting concerned that such a compulsory sysof all the old ombudsmen, for whose tem with binding decisions could activities be will now he responsible.

The creation of a supreme ombudsman, set to happen by the end of the year, marks the culmination of a months-long consultation process by the new Labour Government, In his new role, the ombudsman will merge eight separate redress systems presently operated by hanks, huilding societies, insurance firms, financial advisers and investment firms.

In so doing, he will end the confusion at the beart of the existing system, whereby even key questions, such as consumer eligibility to complain, limits on awards made, time limits and procedures to be followed, vary wildly between ombudsman schemes.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA), the new, all-encompassing City watchdog, will regulate the scheme, with all firms regulated by the FSA also being covered by the new om-

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Vorld Cup

The change follows long-voiced criticisms by consumers about the current system. Up to now, complaints about the treatment disbed out by a financial company could be dealt with by a variety of ombudsmen, depeoding on their nature.

For example, if at present an insurance company refuses to pay compensation on a matter concerning a household policy, the matter is considered by the Insurance Ombudsman. If it were life insurance or a pensions issue, this would be the fiefdom of the PIA Ombudsman. But if it is a fund management quarrel, the Investment Ombudsman takes

Compensation is also tricky. The PIA Ombudsman can force insurers and independent financial advisers to

pay a maximum of £50,000 compensation. In addition they may have to venience. But the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation's Ombudsman can force investment houses to pay £100,000 plus £750 for

The super-Ombudsman will have powers to force firms to pay up to £100,000 in compensation and £1,000 for distress and inconvenience.

Perbaps not surprisingly, not all current ombudsmen welcome the mean the FSA would be forced to introduce full court procedures. David Thomas, the Banking Ombudsman, feels the FSA could be contravening the European convention on buman rights if it did not introduce such legal procedures,

Tooy Holland, Ombudsman for the Personal Investment Authority, the existing frontline regulator, feels the new system will help consumers identity where to make a complaint.

Mr Holland says: "In today's market of many ombudsmen, the perceived problem is that there is a confusion among consumers about names and functions. A single body would help solve this confusion."

But be worries that the super-omcranic nightmare which will scare consumers if it is allowed to be to big.

More surprisingly, not all consumer organisations are too happy with the new supremo either. They fear it will slow down the complaints procedure and lead to a pile up of cases waiting to be processed.

The Consumers' Association believes the system could stack the odds against the complainant. It is worried the formal nature of the scheme will push consumers into the lion's den or count against financial beavyweights such as banks and insurance companies.

The problem with the new system is that it will be run as a series of hearings which lawyers can attend. This could scare less well off people away," says Philip Telford at the Consumers' Associatioo. Consumer groups favour the current free complaints system of independent arbitration over formal legal challenges. Another stumbling block for con-

ing Society but not against a lender like the Mortgage Corporation.

those not.

see a simpler definition. The NCC



sumers could come if mortgages are oot brought within the FSA but banks and building societies are. Under this idea, consumers will be able to pursue a complaint against NatWest Bank or Nationwide Build-

Mr Thomas, the Banking Ombudsman, and the National Consumer Council (NCC) are also concerned that many consumers will be unaware of the distinction between firms regulated by the FSA and

They fear consumers will want to

ombudsman's coverage to areas outside those not regulated by the FSA.

Consumer groups also wants the best features from the existing om-

budsmen saved when creating the

The size of the new ombudsman also threatens to boost costs. Under the current system consumers can

Where do I go to make a complaint? Firms covered 0171-484 5544 The Banking Ombo Building societie The Building Society Omb 0171-931 0044 Life offices, financial advisors The PLA Ombuds 0171-216 0016 insurance firms and agents imo fima The Investment Ombudsma 0171-796 3065 SFA Erms The SFA Complaints Bursay 0171-378 9000

Personal Insurance Arbitration S

The PSA Direct Regulation Unit

meet with the ombudsmen, making the process a more buman, less cold ooe. Consumers could also lose out as the FSA cuts back on the number of staff with specialist knowledge and

The Government has already hurdened the FSA with bringing the financial services regulatory regime under one roof.

Consumer groups fear the regulator may not have enough resources to ensure the new white knight's mission to protect consumers is a success. The problem could mean he is rushed into fully operational status with rusty armour and a weak lance.

# INDEX Run from the

taxman

Scottish pension savers will be much better off than their English counterparts if the new Parliament raises income tax to the limit, it was confirmed this week. Alistair Darling, the chief secretary to the Treasury, confirmed that the tax element of the Scotland Bill will allow pension savers to get tax relief of up to 26 per cent compared to just 23 per cent south of the border. On retirement, tax-conscious Scots will be able to save a substantial sum by heading south, a legal kind of cross-border arbitrage

#### Fire sale on savings

Savers are being offered a glut of cut-price deals on PEPs in the rush to make use of tax-free allowances before they disappear in April 1999. Save & Prosper is cutting the 5.5 per cent upfront charge on PEP money invested in its growth and income fund, while TSB will offer a discount worth up to £300. If savers invest before 5 April, they can put aside up to £9,000 for 1997/8, which incurs tax relief on growth and pays out tax-free.

#### Glad to see them go

The £15bn mega-merger of two of the UK's biggest insurers. General Accident and Commercial Union, has been given a surprise welcome by the Consumers Association. "Ironically it's actually good news for consumers. There are still over 100 Insurance companies selling endowments, savings and pensions. it's extremely difficult for the consumer to look at thousands of different policies," said Mick McAteer, senior policy officer. Our commentators give their own reactions. Pages 5 and 8

#### INSIDE

Collectables with John Windsor Page 3

Jonathan Davis Page 5

Pensions special survey Page 6 & 7

Motoring

Property Page | | & |2

#### Spotlight: Matrix Securities Newcastle Trust

The product: The Matrix Securities Newcastle Trust.

The deal: Take £5,000, or borrow at least £22,000, and invest it for at least seven years. The investment buys units in an Enterprise Zone Property part of Hadrian's Business Park, Plus points: Because of the tax -or £70,000, leaving an effective cash Trust which builds and develops

east of Newcastle upon Tyne. The units benefit from tax relief of 37.6 per cent if you are a higher-rate taxpayer. Investors will receive a rental income of 7.5 per cent - plus a share of the property's value if and when

reliefs, it is possible to invest in the trust with no cash outlay. An investment of £100,000 could be made up of £62,400 plus £37,600 in higher rate tax reliefs.

Matrix can arrange a loan of up to 70 per cent of the total investment

surplus of £7,600. The rental income should then pay off the interest on this loan - and some.

Insurance com

PSA firms

The company developing the trust puts down a deposit which pays the rent for up to seven years or until a tenant is found. Sometimes, returns in similar trusts have been very high

Drawbacks and risks: The trusts got a bad name because of the late 1980s property débâcle, Canary Wharf. Tenants could not be found and in-

nature of the current system will be

0171-837 4483

vestors were left with massive losses. Industry observers believe the commercial property market in the

- equivalent to interest of 19 per cent. North-east may be somewhat artificial. Investors need to be confident that tenants are thoroughly reliable.

Verdict: Attractive to a higher-rate taxpayer willing to tie up money for at least seven years - and take a risk. Marks out of five: Two and a balf.

Page 9

# Why does money grow in our Blue Chip PEP? Look at the Fundamentals.

 Every time you fill your trolley at the supermarket, you're probably supporting fair few of Britain's blue chip compar



NO INITIAL CHARGE\*

investment for the heart of your portfolio. M&G's Blue Chip PEP Fund - part of our Fundamentals range - will help you take advantage of their strength. INVEST IN BRITAIN'S BRIGHTEST

Bin the land, and make an ideal

With our Blue Chip PEP Fund, you could currently be topping into the success of such famous names as Shell, Glazo Wellcome and HT. As the figures show, those who have already invested are reaping handsome rewards, this fund is a top performer in its sector.

LONG TERM GOALS Whether you're saving for school fees, or need

extra savings to dip into in retirement, the merits of a stake in Great Britain PLC are plain to see. Why look any further for a long term total return? There's Fundamentally only one choice - The M&G Blue Chip PEP Fund.

THE M&G ISABILITY PROMISE

The Government plans to replace PEPs with Individual Savings Accounts in 1999. We promise to make no penalty charge when you transfer your M&G PEP holding to our ISA. Ask for details of this exciting opportunity today.



### The price is not right for Midshires

Imagine you are a homeowner ready to sell. Your estate agent touts your house around the market and comes up with what appears to be a decent offer. Unfortunately, it takes eight months before you know the vital details. By that time, every similar house in the area has seen its price very nearly double.

You have not yet exchanged contracts, hut the buyer will not boost the price. Your estate agent swears there are no better offers. He also dismisses as irrelevant the fact that the buyer has offered him a palatial room in his own house complete with panoramic views.

One million members of the Birmingham Midshires huilding society now find themselves in a situation closely parallel to this. Last August, the board of Birmingham Midshires (not, of estate agent) announced an offer for the society from the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Birmingham Midshires agreed a price range of £605m to £630m. Shared evenly hetween memhers, this dangled the prospect of a windfall for every member worth £600 each. Fine.

Now, in the past eight months, prices for this particular type of property have very nearly doubled, Converted building societies such as Northern Rock and Halifax are valued by the stock market at least 20 times their annual earnings.

Birmingham Midshires is being sold at just 12.5 times to look after the interests of sold at a price closer to the holders could expect windfalls of more than £1,000 each.

If Royal Bank succeeds, it will be snapping up the society at a bargain price.

However, Mike Jackson, chief executive of Birmingham Midshires, says the City is over-valuing other converted societies. In other words, it is not a fair comparison.

Mr Jackson, who will he offered an executive director's job at the Royal Bank if the deal goes through, may have a point. City prices for banks have entered the stratosphere in the last eight months and analysts agree that most are overpriced.

But if the prices of huilding societies had sunk instead of risen, would Royal Bank have stuck so doggedly to its original offer?

To extend the analogy, contracts are still to be exchanged. Policyholders are still the owners of Birmingham Midshires. They have course, to be compared to an the right to veto any deal, whether recommended or not, by the board of directors.

In April, the exact nature of that deal will become clear when Birmingham Midshires reveals exactly how it plans to share out the proceeds of a sale. Policyholders are likely to have a chance to vote on it before the end of July.

A group of dissident members are trying to bring the directors of Midshires to account under the banner of Save Our Building Societies. If they can muster enough support, they may be able to change the price of the deal or even call it off altogether. After all, the board is there

be contacted on 01727 847370.

# How a family can avoid growing pains

THE MAKEOVER

Name: Jim and Liz Hopkinson, and family

Occupation: Probation officer and occupational therapist The problem: The arrival of daughter Eleanor fast year has made the Hopkinsons rethink their financial goals. The advice: Once they have worked out a budget and provided for a cash reserve and protection plans, the

Hopkinsons will find it easier to select investments to meet their goals over short, medium and long term

came a family in August with the arrival thoughts have now turned to planning for the future.

Jim Hopkinson earns £21,300 per annum while Liz Hopkinson intends to return to work in May for around £10,000 per annum, leaving the family with a lower income than it has so far enjoyed.

Their mortgage is with Halifax, for £40,000 on a house they bought for £57.000 m 1994. Part is on a repayment basis and part is interest only, with a PEP as the repayment vehicle. They are concerned over the introduction of the Individual Savings Account (ISA) and the end of PEPs in 1999, which impact on their repayments.

Their other savings are in Tessas, National Savings accounts and a selection of building societies - to benefit from future "windfalls". They would like suggestions on how to save money for their daughter, for when she reaches 18.

The Adviser: Steve Buttercase, of. Maddison Monetary Management, a firm of independent financial advisers with offices in Bagshot, Bath, Cambridge and Nottingham. Telephone

The Advice: It is often a happy event,

Jim and Liz, who live in Leicester, be- can lead to a great deal of financial stress. The freedom of two incomes and of their daughter Eleanor. Their fewer responsibilities is suddenly replaced by one income and probably the greatest responsibility you can have!

My first recommendation is always to do an accurate monthly budget and determine where the money goes each month. Jim and Liz live quite frugally by their own admission and have a monthly surplus of £400. This has led to them accumulating savings of nearly £40,000 in different accounts.

I would suggest that they maintain. a cash reserve that equates to three months' outgoings. For Jim and Liz this is roughly £3,000, which should be on instant access to allow for emergencies and opportunities.

Mortgage: As their mortgage is currently with Halifax they may wish to opt for a fixed rate of 6.25 per cent to guarantee their main outgoing for five years. At present, they have £20,000 of the mortgage covered by two £70 per month PEPs with Halifax Life. They felt PEPs would perform better than endowments and were more flexible, although they now think perhaps one of the PEPs should be with another provider.

There is an option to convert the whole mortgage to a repayment basis or even consider an endowment policy such as the arrival of a new baby, that to replace the PEP mortgage - these



include life cover, which is more relevant now they have a daughter.

Protection: The next area to consider nastier things in life. This means insurance against illness, disability and death. Jim has a permanent health insurance policy that pays out after 52 weeks deferment. This is because his previous job would have paid him an mcome for one year.

Jim changed employer in January and will not qualify for sick pay for two years. My suggestion is that he talks to his existing provider about reducing child. To spread the capital around, I is adequate protection against the the deferment period and what the new premium would be. Scottish Widows offer a deferment of eight weeks, so it may be sensible to see if a better deal can be obtained once his current provider has replied.

Jim should also consider critical illness cover that pays out a lump sum

Budget on a baby: Jim Hopkinson wants to invest for Eleanor's Photograph: Page One **future** 

rather than an income on diagnosis of certain conditions. For life cover, Jim would be wise to consider Family Income Benefit, which pays our regular income to the surviving spouse rather than a lump sum.

Pensions: Jim has left his previous pensioo scheme after four years' service. He also contributed £50 per month into AVCs while a member. He has the chance to join his new employer's scheme with Pensions Trust but asked whether it may be better to take out a personal pension.

My recommendation is to join the scheme even though the employer is prepared to contribute into a personal pension plan on Jim's behalf. This is because the scheme has very low charges and offers death in service benefits. Jim expects to be with this new employer for around seven years.

Saving for the future: The next question was how best to save money for Eleanor's future. Jim is considering a PEP with another provider and hopes to save around £150 per month. He also asked about life assurancehased savings plans.

My suggestion is a bit of everything! A plan that is affordable and matures on Eleanor's birthday would be tax free and could be written in trust for the suggest they consider £10,000 into National Savings - the 12th index-linked issue. They could also consider maximising their PEP allowances over and above the regular savings and topping up their Tessas - these remain good investments to take advantage of prior to the launch of the ISAs.

### A border line case of tax benefits for pensioners

Pension savers in Scotland will be able to enjoy a substantial-side-benefit if the new parliament raises taxes to the maximum of 26 per cent, the Government confirmed this week.

relief of up to 26 per cent - 3 per cent

Scottish savings institutions that Scottish residents would be disadvantaged, paying up to 26 per cent in income tax but receiving less tax relief.

tax is 26 per cent, according to figures more than their English counterparts. from Scottish Equitable, the life insurer.

£140,000 for an English saver putting away the same amount.

The move creates a loophole in tax law which allows pensioners to enjoy rate as tax relief is given on savings.

Steve Muir, a spokesman for Axa of cross-border arbitrage similar to one ....

The move will allay fears among This compares with a fund worth just Sun Life, said: "In Scotland, you may pay more tax under the Scottish parliament. But if you save through a personal pension, you may have more going into your pension pot if you are Scottish than if you are English. You might find that some people feel they are better off migrating away from

The loophole creates a legal form to get divorced at Green.

Thought for the day

which already exists in the area of pensions and divorce. Under existing laws in England, spouses can claim a share of the entire pension, no matter when it was started. In Scotland, they are only entitled to part of the amount that has been saved since the date of the marriage. Spouses who marry late, and divorce quickly, have a financial incentive

#### its annual earnings. If it were policyholders. Not directors. The Treasury said it will pay oul tax A saver north of the border who puts a lower tax burdeo on their pension reliefs up to the full rate chargeable savings if they move south of the border £1,000 a year into a pension for 25 years can expect a fund worth up to £146,000 market consensus, its policy- Bob Goodall, co-ordinator of in Scotland when the new parliament on retirement. Uotil now, pensions in is constituted, giving Scottish savers tax if investments grow by 10 per cent and payment have been taxed at the same. Scotland when they retin: Save Our Building Societies, can

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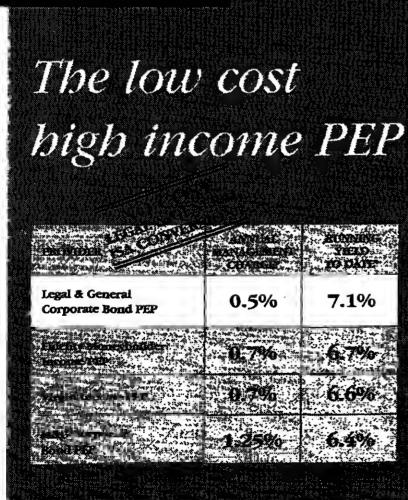
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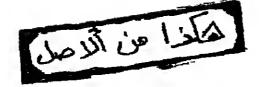
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oners





ROBIN AMLÔT INTERNET INVESTOR

### Banks upgrade their websites

The web is not immutable. The should offer. It is only open 8am number of households in to 8pm, Monday to Friday, Britain with access to the internet more than doubled from 11am tn 3pm nn Sunday. Bar-1996 to 960,000 by June 1997. By June this year it is likely to have more than doubled again. and over 2.5 million people have access to the internet at work. Over a quarter of a million people are shapping online each month and one in 10 has already used their credit card to

make a purchase on the internet. Barclays, Halifax and Woolwich have all recently upgraded their websites, increasing the interactive nature of what is available. Three or four years all used to have with bank manago, too many financial services providers seemed to feel it was enough merely to provide a home page with links tn a glorified version of their printed sales brochure. However, things are changing and content has improved substantially.

Woolwich Insurance Services now has an online market search, select and buying system. The service offers the UK's first online household insurance. with real-time comparative quotations as well as enabling you to purchase a policy online by paying for the initial premium through an online credit card transaction. The Woolwich site travel insurance online, also offers the option to be connected to an adviser during the search and transaction process.

The added extra magic ingredient "human being" is also on offer at Barclays' relaunched personal banking internet site. It offers an interactive "call me" facility on Barclays Mortgages pages and new pages for Barclays Premier Banking and Barelays Life - the bank's life assurance and pensions arm. Through the "call me" hutton on the Barclays Mortgages pages, you can request a mortgage specialist call you immediately or - if more convenient

- in five minutes. However, the "call me" service is still not quite the "Martini banking" which the internet

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No notice required and no penalties.

10am to 4pm on Saturday and clays claims it can complete the application process over the phone in around 20 minutes.

For the very sad annraks amning us, the Barclays Life pages, as well as providing information on products and services, allow you to download a "Harry and Doris" screensaver based on characters from a recent ad campaign. Barclays Premier pages introduce the bank's relationship banking service (you know, the kind of relationship we agers when banks actually had bank managers) and offers information on products, such as the Barclays Premier Mortgage, that are available exclusively to Barclays Premier customers.

Halifax has completely redesigned its website, giving it its second new look since first heing established in May 1995. It now offers you the facility of applying online to Halifax Direct for various banking products; both current accounts and unsecured personal loans, Online Halifax Visa Card applications will follow shortly. You can also get quotes for and purchase

Halifax shareholders may also check up on the value of their investment by entering the number of shares they hold. A hranch locator also allows you to find the address of your nearest Halifax branch.

A separate internet site is being developed for offshore savings customers with Halifax International (Jersey) and Halifax International (Isle of Man). The new site will concentrate on offering products to expatriate and UK customers who wish to manage their tax affairs by investing savings offshore.

Barclays: www.barclays.co.uk Halifax, www.halifax.co.uk Woolwich Insurance Services: www.woolwich-insurance.co.uk

# A new deal for ceramics

Collect to invest: John Windsor

Prices of contemporary ceramics are likely to get a shot in the arm with the opening next month of the Barrett Marsden Gallery in Islington, Its cofounder, Taijana Marsden, formerly director of the charitable crafts organisation Contemporary Applied Arts (CAA) and now a ceramics consultant to Christie's, has taken the controversial step of making London-wide exclusivity agreements with 13 artists, including such established names as Alison Britton, Martin Smith, head of ceramics at the Royal College of Art, and the veteran Gordon Baldwin, recently retired head

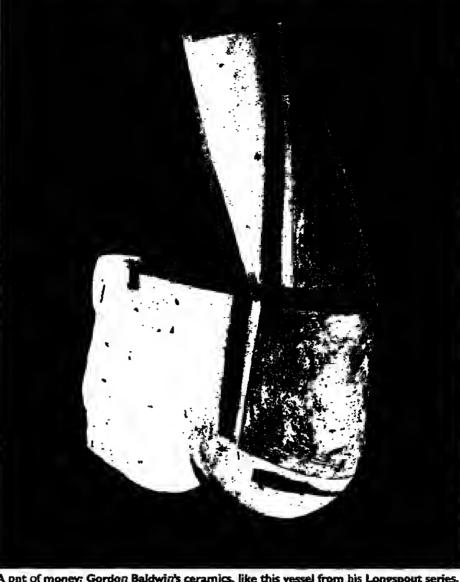
Hitherto, the London contemporary ceramics market has been an economic anomaly. Unlike the picture market, in which a multitude of galleries sign up artists exclusively and prompte them in nne-man shows, the contemporary ceramics market has few galleries and has been dominated by Bonhams, the auctinneers, where dealers are often outbid by private collectors.

of ceramics at Eton College.

The new gallery, occupying 2,500 square feet in Great Sutton Street, Farringdon, will help to lift studio pottery out of its downmarket rut as mere craft. At present, very few contemporary pots, even by top names, command more than £3,000, the price a vogucy, little-known art college graduate might get for a painting.

It is financed by Nelson Woo. a wealthy Hong Kong Chinese collector of contemporary ceramics living in London. He said; "Unlike America or Holland, there are very few galleries in London where talented ceramicists can get a showing." He declined to discuss how much the gallery is costing to set up.

The exclusivity agreement, under which the 13 have agreed Gordon Baldwin's one-day show of the CAA, where a selling ex- opens on 13 March.



A pnt of money: Gordon Baldwin's ceramics, like this vessel from his Longspout series, 1989, fetch up to £2,800

not to attempt to sell their work scheduled for May at Galerie through other London galleries Besson - the higgest of only four or anctioneers, has already London galleries that put on raised backles. Martin Smith has one-man contemporary ceramcancelled his one-man show at the CAA in September and

ics shows - is in the halance.

Many of the 13 are members

hibition "A View of City", curated by Alison Britton and including the work of Gordon Baldwin and Richard Slee, also now exclusively with Barrett-Marsden, will still be on show when the gallery

The CAA's director, Mary La Trobe-Bateman, said: "I find the exclusive showing rights disturbing. We still have work by a lot of these people in stock and about whether they are going to withdraw it."

During Ms Marsden's directorship of the CAA, which ended in 1990, the trend was towards gallery-style shows of adventurous, sculptural ceramics by artists such as Ewen Henderson, Alison Britton and Bryan Illsley (another Barrett-Marsden member). But the CAA now has 260 members, including textile artists and jewellers. "We have a lot of stock," said Ms La Trobe-Bateman. "It really doesn't allow oneman shows."

At the new gallery, there will be few prices above £3,000, an indication that prices have slipped in the past decade.

The new gallery will charge of Gordon Baldwin and Martin Smith. Their ceramics, and those of another gallery member, Ken Eastman, are semiabstract artworks, quite unlike craft pools, that expand the concept of the vessel to its limits.

accentuate the rivalry between timated £1,800-£2,500, fetched £2,070. In June, a stoneware vessel hy Britton, estimated £1,500-£2,200, sold for a belowestimate £1,380. At the CAA, a after you". Britton pot with pleated spout is on offer at £2,400. But in April at Bonhams, a Britton pot will £2,200-£3,000 - a sign that 336 6396). higher prices are firming up.

Gallery goods are fresh to market and undamaged, so their value tends to be higher. Members of the new gallery will get back only 50 per cent of prices paid (a standard gallery (0171-293 5000), and not as rate) compared with about 80 stated bere last week.

per cent at Bonhams. But Ms Marsden said: "Buying at auction is bargain buying. It's damaging for the artist

She said she hoped that in have had no word from them five or 10 years' time there would be "a healthy network of galleries like ours throughout Britain. Everybody is going to be better nff. If artists have spent months making a piece. the same consideration should be given to how it is going to be shown. Work should not be displayed like bags of sugar.

"If our artists have agreed regular exhibitions with other galleries we will not ask them to break those relationships. We're just trying to plug the hole we have identified. For me, it is now or never."

The typical Barrett-Mars-den ceramicist is ex-RCA, around 50-years old, and with an established reputation both here and abroad. For them, an exup to £3,000-plus for the work clusive relationship with a London gallery makes sense. They will no longer have to hump pots between galleries, argue prices with clients and do paperwork.

Alison Britton, aged 50, who was offered a solo show by the CAA after committing herself The new gallery is bound to to his new gallery, said: "At my age, I want to feel that someone dealers and auctinneers. At is taking care of how my work Bonhams last November, a should be displayed. At the age Baldwin open bowl of 1982, es- of 30 I would have said yes to any gallery and hoped for the best."

Or, as Gordon Baldwin, aged 65, said: "Tatjana told me You need somebody to look

Barrett Marsden Gallery, 17-18 Great Sutton Street, London carry the bullish estimate of ECIV ODN (Telephone: 0171-

> Correction: The auction of the Swaythling apostle spoons is next Thursday, 5th March (10.30am) at Sotheby's, 34-5 New Bond St, London W1

#### BARGAIN BASEMENT

vest more than 14,000 in its growth and income PEP by 5 April Investors who put in at least £1,000 will receive a smaller discount of 3 per cent. The fund currently pays out 2.4 per cent, twice a year.

TSB is offering an upfront discount of £300 to investors who put the maximum allowable amount of £6,000 into a TSB PEP before 3 April. The discount applies to amounts going in to its Tax Free Savings Plan PEP. A smaller discount, of £120, will be given on savings going into TSB's High Income PEP.

Legal & General has launched a new PEP which aims to give 140 per cent of the growth of stock markets in Britain, Germany, France and Switzerland. The PEP will be available between 2 March and 9 April in order to

5.5 per cent for people who infor both 1997/8 and 1998/9. in the respective markets. Growth is capped if the investment doubles its value within six years.

> Northern Rock will launch an instant access, offsbore account on Monday that pays up to 8 per cent à year, gross of tax. Investments of £10,000 or more will earn 7.5 per cent gross a year. Only three withdrawals can be made in any one year without incurring a penalty.

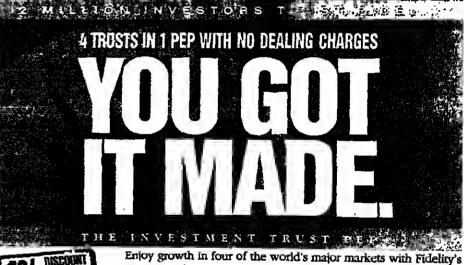
> Manor Park, the offshore investment specialist, is launching a range of funds that offer to protect investors' capital against market falls of up to 5 per cent. The funds offer a share in growth of the FT-SE 100 index in London, the Nikkei 225 in Japan, the Hang Seng in Hong Kong, the S&P 500 in the US or the DAX 30 in Germany. Lower levels of

Save & Prosper is slashing allow investors to save up to protection combine with the entire upfront charge of £18,000, using tax allowances higher shares of any growth

Sun Life has combined with

Royal Bank of Scotland to produce an innovative means of funding the needs of elderly relatives needing mohility aids. The product combines an endowment with Sun Life with a loan facility at 10.6 per cent interest. Interest is only repayable on the amount of the loan that is used to fund home aids. The facility can also be used for some kinds of medical treatment.

Abcrdeen Investment Trusts is offering shares in its Convertible Income Trust. which aims to provide a highdividend yield together with the potential for capital growth. As at 31 December. the dividend yield was 7.9 per cent gross. The offer, which can be arranged within a PEP, is open until 26 March.



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# How to profit from reading the big print

An ever-increasing number of specialist magazines are targeting readers in search of personal finance advice. lain Morse reports.

What is it with personal finance magazines? Every few months, it seems, another is launched - each one aiming to grab a slice of the burgeoning market for financial information that can belp turn us all into

Perhaps more prosaically, magazine readers are reacting to a development, initiated by the Tories but continued under Labour, whereby the traditional welfare safety net is gradually being withdrawn. Providing for oneself, be that in the field of pensions, bealth insurance or long-term care, has become more crucial. Financial magazines, along with personal finance sections such as this one, are there to belp us sort out the wheat from the chaff.

Earlier this month, Bloomberg Money,

yet another consumer magazine, hit the Marshall reckons it will cost about £5 in proof the perils and profits of personal inaiming at?

At one level, the potential readership share of cover price. is still largely untapped. Put in perspective, 450,000, the 28 personal finance titles stubbornly low. sold in the UK achieve joint monthly sales of just over 200,000.

According to Sarah Marshall, of distributor Comag: "This is a niche market which surprisingly has not much increased in recent years." Generating total annual turnover of around £6.5m, titles rely on loyal. readerships, with annual subscriptions an important source of revenue.

Most titles offer generous discounts on off newsstands. Each time you buy a magazine, about half its cover price goes to the publisher, with the rest split between distributor and retailer. Industry estimates suggest that as many as two-thirds of copies' sold go by subscription.

Launching a new title is expensive. Ms

news stands, aiming to inform its readers motion per copy sold, and the minimum launch period is at least three months. Bevestment. The question publishers of all cause these magazines go to retailers on a these mags, including Bloomberg Money, sale or return basis, it takes four weeks must answer is what kind of market are they before the publisher knows how many copies have been sold, or receives its

History in this sector is littered with the personal finance sector is a small one; heroic failures. Barely two years ago, anwhile Cosmopolitan and FHM magazines other glossy mag, Inside Money, was pulled each have monthly sales in excess of after barety six issues, after sales remained

This should make the launch of Bloomberg Money a nerve-wracking affair. But the magazine's editor-in-chief, Lawrence Gosling, is a confident man. "With more people buying financial products, we see a gap in the market. Existing titles are either too specialised or just too general. We don't just want to take readers from rival publications, but reach a new readership."

Mr Gosling's comments give a clue to subscription due to the high cost of selling. the approach taken by the publishers of the various financial magazines. Their starting point is that not all potential readers are the same. They may be relatively new to savings and investment, in which case a more "poppy" magazine such as Moneywise. published by Reader's Digest, is most likely to suit their needs.

Or they may see themselves as more for most types of readers out in the sophisticated, whereupon the share-tipping strategy of Investors Chronicle, part of the Financial Times stable, is a preferred read.

One possible threat to editorial quality (and independence) comes from the fact Or they may be fiercely loyal to the more that advertising revenue can account for iconoclastic editorial approach of Money as much as 80 per cent of a title's total income. Navigating between the giving of Observer, a bizarre offshoot of the Guardian straight - and occasionally critical - in-Either way, there are plenty of choices formation about finance and not offend-

ing your advertisers can be difficult. Most manage to steer clear of selling themselves to the devil. Ultimately, their readers will

Meanwhile, Bloomberg Money's launch copy carries a picture of Richard Branson wearing inflatable borns and a sinister expression. Is there anything be won't do for

remortgaging, so they want simple, infor-

Strength: Covers main stream mort-

gages, but also features on self-build and

loans for the self employed. Mortgage fact-

file covers "99 per cent" of available loans.



Paper investments: Even before you decide where to put your money, publishers are after your cash

### Best buys: The personal finance magazines to put your money on

Money Observer Launched 1979

Monthly circulation: 35,000
Cost: £3.25, Annual subscription: by

cheque £33, by direct debit £29.70. Aim/target: "Our readers tend already to have some knowledge of the market." Strength: Easy to read databank on sbare, unit & investment trust performance. Tessa and mortgage best deals.

smaller company investment. Weakness: Too many uncritical fund manager profiles. No coverage of personal

Feature-length analysis of subjects like

Investors Chronicle Launched 1860

Weekly circulation: 61,000

Cost: £2.50. Subscription discount: 10 per

Aim/target "By comparison to others, we simply are more focused on shares than packaged retail financial products." Strength: Reviews every share quoted in

the UK at least once each year. Weekly,

Launched 1996

Cost: Annual subscription only, £49.50 (ring 01692 500765).

the contract with a contract

so up to date on market movements. Weakness: dismissive of retail financial products, little cover on personal insurance.

Personal Finance

Launched 1994 Monthly circulation: 11/2 Cost: £2.60. Subscription discount; 37 per

Aim/target: "Novice investors, who know little about money and retail financial

Strength: Relates lifestyle to product, with cent a strong emphasis on insurance and pension planning.

Weakness: Superficial analysis of products, with thin data on product cost and performance.

MoneyFacts Life & Pensions

Monthly circulation: 6,000

Aim/target: "We provide hard data Weakness: picture of Richard Branson across the full range of products, from on the cover.

mortgages to investment trusts. This is a Strength: The bottom line without frills

or hyperbole. Weakness: No articles, and only available by subscription, so try your nearest central library for a copy.

Launched 1998

Monthly circulation: first issue 30,000 Cost: £2.95, Subscription discount: 25 per

Aim/target: "We're aiming both at committed investors, and people getting interested in the subject. We want to bridge the gap between specialist investment magazines and those that aim [uncritically] for the mass market."

Strength: Early days, but coverage ranges widely from a critical piece on fund manager M&G to the merits of collecting Spice Girl dolls as future investments. Good data on fund performance.

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edgeable staff will be bappy to answer any questions you may have.

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so reducing the risks.

lump sum of £1,000.

ferred at no extra charge."

companies, Royal & SunAlliance.

one of the lowest annual management

charges in the tracker PEP market.

Monthly circulation: 105,000 Cost: £2.70. No discount on subscription Aim/target: "To give people financial advice they need to make real life

decisions, in plain English." Strength: Could its breezy, easy style account for Moneywise having the highest circulation of titles reviewed? Starter level package with emphasis on practical, every day financial problem solving.

Weakness: Sometimes not enough indepth critical analysis.

Money Management Launched 1962

Monthly circulation: 20,000 Cost: £5.50. Subscription discount: 10 per

Aim/Target: "We are the bible of the personal finance magazines. We publish in depth surveys of retail product types and refuse to take providers at their

Strength: Tells you all you ever wanted to

For anyone

know about a subject, and has a very good readers are first-time buyers. 30 per cent fund performance data. Authoritative. Wealcress: Designed for industry professionals, boringly written, so make sure it has an article you want to read before

What Investment Launched 1987

Circulation: 35,000 Cost: £2.75. Subscription discount: 30 per

Aim/target: "Geared to experienced investors who already have knowledge of collective investment vehicles." Strength: Only title reviewed to focus solely on unit and investment trusts, and private pension funds.

Weakness: Not for the beginners. Nothing on personal insurance.

What Mortgage Launched 1982 Monthly circulation: 35,000 Cost: £2.50. No subscription

Alm/target: "Forty-nine per cent of

Weakness: Nothing but mortgages. Extremely repetitive; bit like a wedding magazine, you are only likely to read it for

mative and unbiased copy."

Launched 1986

Monthly circulation: 15,000 Costs; £3. No subscription

Aim/target: "There are fewer lenders offering more varied loans. We try to help you choose the right kind of loan, before you approach a lender."

Strength: February's issue offers you the chance to win a power washer worth

Weakness: Thin mortgage factfile, same. criticisms as above.... - - - - - Iain Morse

attention from the AMA some some of its

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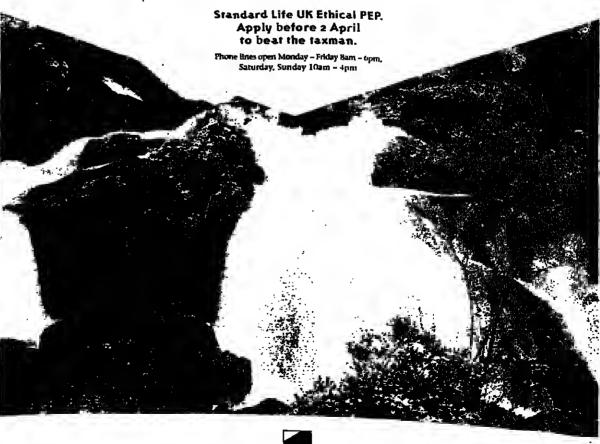
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# You can bank on some more mega mergers yet



#### JONATHAN DAVIS COLUMN

of two big corporate deals in the stock market this week one that looks like working well and the big one which fell to earth. Wednesday's announcement of a tie-up between Commercial Union and General Accident is one of those deals, like Lloyds/TSB, which

why it has taken so long to happen. You don't need a business rate finance. Even a few years mergers and acquisitions is degree to see that there are potential benefits to be had from higgest US investment banks pooling two long-established should be taking the lead in encing growing competition and need to attack both their

Accident already, rightly, has the reputation for being quicker to adapt to the tougher new industry environment than the much sleepier Commercial Union), but it will give them a It was without questinn a tale fresh opportunity to get their act together more quickly than they could do on their own.

The trick, of course, has been to bring the two sides together in a harmonious way. It is interesting to see that the companies were advised respectively by Morgan Stanley

how rapidly the American share of the top jobs, is a use- where most of the big deals investment brains around, has companies which are experi-such a deal would have been unthinkable.

لمكذا من ألاصل

revenue and cost structures if Beecham saga is a more dra- Having pulled nut of one they are to generate better matic, if less savoury, story all merger deal, with the Ameriround. Viewed from a broad It won't make them better international perspective, the Products, in order to throw in companies per se (General case for a merger was also clear cut, and one reason why the deal was greeted so favourably by the market, which marked both companies' shares up by handsome margins when it was announced - a reversal of traditional City experience, which holds that only one side normally benefits from a big

merger of this sort.
The fact that the deal has unravelled so abruptly, ostensibly because of arguments between the two companies about which management team should command the lion's accident that the three sectors

investment bankers would have you believe.

It has left the management of SmithKline Beecham in par-The Glaxo/SmithKline ticular looking vulnerable. can company American Home its lot with Glazo Wellcome, the company is now in a state of limbo - publicly advertising the fact that it needs to combine with another large company, but seemingly unable to bring such a deal to fruition. Barciays, which has allowed

> itself to appear as if it is desperate to strike a deal with a rival bank, is in danger of finding itself in a similar bole.

From an investor's point of view, the run of big company deals - both successful and abortive - is important. It is no

logical sense that you wonder investment banks are moving ful reminder that the momeninto a lead role in UK corpo- turn towards big company maceuticals, banks and insurance. These are precisely the ago, the idea that two of the not quite as inevitable as the sectors which as I mentioned last month, have been leading the advance of the FTSE 100 index for most of the past 18

> The three sectors accounted for more than half the index's advance last year and are, in essence, the reason why the Footsie index has so massively outperformed the small and medium-sized sectors of the market for most of that time. This trend, as my chart shows, has continued in the first few months of this year.

If the run of deals dries up,

then the market is likely to suffer a hangover, just as it did the day after the Glaxo/SmithKline merger was called off. But my view is that we are not yet finisbed with the consolidation process, certainly in banks and insurance. Nils Taube, Lord Rothschild's stock market adviser and one of the shrewdest at least two years. As manager of one of the best performing European funds over the last 30 years, who brings a genuinely international perspective to his stock selection, be was one of the first to see that pressures which were driving banks and insurance companies to com-

As long as the drive towards European integration persists, that pressure will also persist. Like Anthony Bolton of Fidelity, another leading fund manager, Taube has demonstrated that there is an awful lot of money to be made by picking up early on a broad theme of industrial change and running with it as long it

bine were bound to persist.

If it does persist, you can be certain that several of the recently demutualised building societies and insurance comnanies will find themselves in the way of a bid or a merger Performance of banks, insurers and pharmaceutical companies relative to the FT Ali-Share Index since January 1997

proposal. Don't rush, in other words, to take your profits on those windfall shares, despite their strong gains since flotahas faltered, the trend is still very much alive in financial

'Money Makers' by Jonathan Davis, a study of Britain's most successful professional investors, has just been published by Orion tion. As we learnt this week, Business Books at £20. To order while the drive towards con- a copy at the specially discounted solidation in the drugs industry price of £15 (including postage and package) call 01903 736736, quoting the reference number MMID.

UNDERSTANDING THE STOCK MARKET

#### Aim for risky rewards with smaller companies' shares

London Stock Exchange's pub- bad seen a 450 per cent gain. lic market for small, young and growing companies, enabling their shares more widely traded.

Second, the market is intended to appeal to investors who are looking for the high growth rates that can sometimes come from small companies.

"AIM stocks can offer the possibility of above average earnings as they have a greater capacity for very high growth rates than larger companies," says Tony Hobman, head of Private Investor Services at ProSbare.

But the chance of extra growth comes at a price. Before you rush out to buy shares be risker than their stock market counterparts.

AIM was launched in June 1995. Although some cynics consider that AIM gives investors a likely to end in disaster, such criticism is overdone. Since its launch, only two companies have gone bust though a few others may not escape this fate.

There have been incredible successes. For example, Surrey Free Inns was launched in AIM

The Alternative Investment in July 1995 at 85p. When it Market - known as AlM - bas transferred to a full listing as SFI a double purpose. First, it is the in September 1996, its investors

However, AIM is a "wealth warning" market, which is not them to raise capital and see for the fainthearted. If AIM attracts you, here are a few golden rules to follow:

Obtain a copy of the prospectus - your stockbroker may be able to belp. If this is not possible, get a copy of the latest annual report and accounts. Research the background of

the directors and main shareholders. These are detailed in the prospectus, while the names of directors also appear in the annual report and accounts. Ascertain the company's free

market (capitalisation) from your broker. This is the number quoted on AIM. Mr Hobman of shares available to the ordiadds, be cautious. AIM com- nary public. If the market is panies may hold out the bope narrow, the sale of just a few shares could result in a sig cant fall in the share price. ■ Self-praise is no praise. Be

very wary of companies which promote their success by public relations specialists. ticket to a roller-coaster which is An advisory stockbroker can

be very useful as they are likely to have details of the company's announcements and will pickup gossip before you. Above all, follow your in-

stincts. If you have bad vibes about a company, steer clear. - John Andrew

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Few pensions give enough for a comfortable retirement. Abigail Montrose explains why four out of five workers are not saving enough

# Prepare to retire in comfort

Being in a pension scheme buting. The final pension you rement, according to a receot people will achieve this. survey by NatWest Life, the in-

vestment arm of Nat West Bank. scheme, your company will pay The survey suggests that on you a pension when you retire average we need £179 a week

week, or £99.80 for a married . couple. Employees who have contributed to the state earnings-related pensions (Serps) will receive an additional state pension. But even if you have contributed throughout your working life and retire on average earnings, the maximum additional pension is £53.40 a week. Saving for retirement becomes key.

If you are in your company's pension scheme, you can con- performance of the fund. You tribute up to 15 per cent of your annual salary into the scheme each year. This is on top of any-year you will receive a statement being inadequate you should can project how much your thing your employer is contri-telling you how your pension consider making AVCs.

does not automatically guar- ceive will depend on the type of antee a good pension. In fact, scheme your employer offers, just one in five workers is on but the maximum pension is track for a comfortable retire- two-thirds of final salary. Few If you are in a final salary

which will be based on your final to make life comfortable in salary and how long you have retirement. This figure repre- been in the scheme. To find out sents half national earnings, so how much pension you can those earning more will need a expect, speak to your personnel larger pension to retain their department. If it looks like this standard of living in retirement.

The basic state pension for making additional voluntary a single person is £62.45 a contributions (AVCs) to boost your retirement provision.
Your company may offer its own AVC scheme, which is usually the best option. You can go to an outside provider hut the charges are normally much

> If your occupational pension scheme is a money purchase fund is performing and what the scheme, your pension contributions will be invested for you and your final pension put will be based on the investment then use this money to buy an income in retirement. Every

higher.



Stand out from the crowd: By checking out how much your pension will provide

estimated value of it will be when you reach retirement. Ynu should ask your pension adviser to find out if they are oo provider how much income your pension fund is likely to says Ian Parker of Black Horse provide when you come in Financial Services, the penretire. Again, if it looks like sions arm of Lloyds Bank. "We

"Those in personal pensions should speak either to their pension provider or their financial target for an adequate pension." pension pot will finally be worth

when you retire and how much income this might buy you. But this does not take into account inflation, which will erode the

huying power of your money." Th work nut the likely effects of inflation, ask your adviser for help and adjust your contributions and pension target accordingly. According in NatWest to be worth.

Life, an annual rate of inflation of 5 per cent would reduce the buying power of £179 to £67 in

20 years. If your personal pension looks like falling short of your target, increase your contributions or consider retiring at a later age. Often, you can arrange for personal pension contributions to be increased each year either by a set amount or the rate of inflation.

Unlike occupational schemes, maximum annual contributions to a personal pension are agerelated. Under-35s can invest up to 17.5 per cent of their salary each year, rising to 20 per cent at ages 36 to 45, with the top tier being 40 per cent at age 61 and

You also need to keep tabs an any different sources for your pensinn provision. Jubs for life are a thing of the past, so most of us will accrue nur pension provising from a variety of sources. It's a good idea to keep all records of any pension schemes you have been in and your financial adviser should be able to help you wark out exactly what provisions you have and how much these are likely

### How to pick the best policy for a personal pension

Dido Sandler looks at the different merits of unit-linked and with-. profits policies

So you've finally heeded the advice and decided to take the pensions plunge. You now have to work out where to invest your hard-earned savings.

If you opt for a personal pension you will have a wide investment choice. both in terms of the company you choose and the type of fund in which you invest. You will be faced with two main types of investment vehicles: withprofits and unit-linked funds.

With-profits is a safety-first investment vehicle. It protects investors from low risk and low yields.

the harshest swings of the stock market by having a "smoothing" effect on investments. So if the markets have a nancial advisers, says: "People with particularly bad year, the effects are av-

The mechanism that ensures this smoothing effect is the bonus system of payouts. This means filling an individ- of the stock market. Over a longer peual's pot with a proportion of the fund's growth on an annual basis, and the rest as a final or "terminal" bonus. Annual bonuses are guaranteed - they cannot be taken away from the pension pot.

The investment strategy that underpins with-profits funds is relatively cautious, and the returns may be more maximum growth by buying into unitlimited than those of unit-linked funds. This is because the system of annual boonses requires a significant proportion of money to be invested in gilts -government loan stock with typically nights, stick to with-profits."

Mike Baugh, head of research with is a tricky business. Bob Marriott, re- for example, has an overseas equity DBS, a network of independent fishort investment terms, that is 10 or eraged out over the term of the policy. so years, are probably better off with with-profits plans because these afford more protection against the vicissitudes riod, the markets tend to even themselves out, so the protection afforded

by with-profits is not as important."

Don Clark, managing director of Wolverhampton-based advisers Torquil Clark, adds: "Individuals with langer to go until retirement should go for linked funds." But he warns: "If Trevor McDonald announcing oo the 10 o'clock oews a fall in the FTSE 100 of 200 points makes you have sleepless

Choosing the best with-profits fund

search manager at Sedgwick Nohle Lowndes, says: "If the free asset ratin - or the proportion of assets in liabilities - in a fund is high, this should lead to better future returns."

The returns, and the effect of charges, are more transparent with unit-linked funds. The structure is similar to unit trusts', in that the saver's cash buys into units in a collective investment fund. This is often a "managed" nr "balanced" fund, which contains a mix of a broad range of investments.

tively safe because of this spread, although they are mure risky than with-profits because a smaller proportion of the money is invested in gilts. But managed funds are not the only

option. Life companies have many

Managed funds are seen as rela-

fund, a UK equity fund, property, new Far Eastern, USA and Japanese funds. as well as a deposit fund. So individuals have a greater choice with unit-linked. But they also need a greater degree of confidence to be able to switch money between managers.

Factors influencing investment decisions include performance and prospects for specific sectors, and changing needs. If you are within five years of retirement, you may decide to switch over to a gilts-based or deposit fund. to avoid any last-minute market volatility imperilling your pension pot. Most providers offer customers a phased transfer service, which eases them geotly into lower-risk investments.

Dido Sandler is a journalist at 'Financial funds to choose from. National Mutual, .4dviser!

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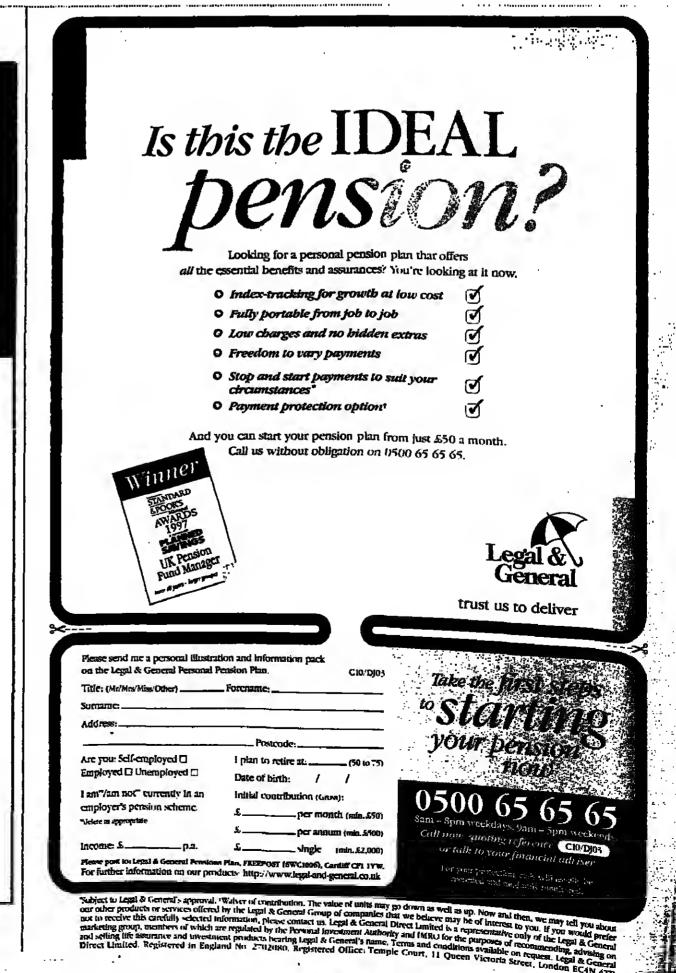


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# Is your scheme fit for your life?

When you are saving for 20 or 30 years it pays to pick a flexible investment plan.

Simon Read explains.

gymnasts may seem incongruous but, oddly enough, it's fairly appropriate as analogies go. or you may become ill and not The best gymnasts are those be able to work and therefore who are most "bendy". I'm sure there's a proper term for butions. These lifestyle changes their ability to throw their bodies into different kinds of your pension planning." alarming shapes but, whatever it is, the winners have it.

The same is true of personal pensions. Why? Because the key to success with personal pensions is flexibility. By its very from your pension or of paying nature, the personal pension is in irregular amounts at differ-

pension

likely to be used by those who switch jobs often, work on contract, are employed by firms that don't offer a company pension or who are self-employed. All these people need flexible fi-

nancial arrangements.
"Few people work for the same company forever anymore," points out Siobhan Mackey, of Clark Conway, a firm of independent financial advisers.

"You may have to take time Comparing personal pensions to off to raise a child, you might become self-employed or take some time out to go travelling. You might want to retire early you would make no contriwill all have an effect on you and

Finding a flexible pension агтапдетенt among the traditional pension suppliers can prove tricky. Most frown upon the notion of taking time off

ent times, and may penalise you Siohhan Mackey explains: tribute to your pension when for doing so.
On the other hand, direct

pensions providers use flexibility as a major selling point. "We only charge £2 per contribution rather than making a monthly charge as other do." says Gordon Maw of Virgin Direct. "So if you want to opt out while pregnant or miss payments at Christmas, for instance, you

won't be incurring any charges." Limited flexibility is available from traditional pension provments, but only at a cost. As scheme which allows you to con-

Some of the problems of lack you can afford to. of flexibility with traditional plans can be quashed by investing in low-cost waiver of premium, which protects your payments in the event that you

are unable to work because of

ill bealth." For the greatest flexibility you should look for schemes that give you the choice of paying in monthly premiums, irregular amounts, or investing a larger lump sum once a year. In iders in terms of missing pay- effect, you're looking for a

#### CHOOSING THE RIGHT PENSION

The kind of pension you are looking for should allow you to: ■ Stop and start your contributions without penalty ■ Increase or decrease contributions without penalty ■ Have a charging structura which does not penalise you in the

Choose between different funds at will and with little or no

Switch to a lower-risk fund when close to retirement Have payments made for you when you are unable to work

Many of the more modern schemes will nowadays allow you to take payment holidays and they are worth seeking out. For example, this means that if you are self-employed and have a particularly bad year, you can save on your pension contributions and use the cash to put back in the business. which can be crucial for those who experience cash-flow problems. Likewise, if you fall pregnant and want to go off and look after the child during pre-school years, you can do so without

effect on your fund," says Siob- ever guarantee. But finding the much year on year but it all adds han Mackey. "Get your adviser to explain the key features document which sets out charges. You will then be able to compare different pensions on the tunities and it is possible to mix been double, if not more." basis of their charges."

Of course, performance is the ultimate factor in determining whether your pension will be any good or not. Sadly, decades. "The performance of that you should get annual state-

Flexible friends: Make sure your pension shapes up

right investment means being informed about the different opportunities available. There are high-risk and low-risk opporand match to get a good com-

your pension fund performance bination of both. Do bear in mind that you as you approach retirement is a could be investing for several sensible strategy. You'll find

"Charges can have a major this is not something you can different funds may not look like ments from your provider. These will give you an idea whether you need to increase your contriup," says Siohhan Mackey. butions, within the limits, to "Over the last 20 years, the difference between the best and reach your pension target. worst performing funds has

For most of us, pension planning is likely to be a 20 or 30-year husiness. Decisions Keeping regular checks on made now may need to be revisited in five, 10 or 20 years time as circumstances and

### Deal direct - and you can keep the middleman's cut

Cheaper charges, no salesmen at your door - a new breed of providers are now offering pensions over the phone. Simon Read and Tony Lyons report.

Buying a pension over the still accuse traditional compaphone offers convenience and cost savings. You can simply sit back at home and dial the company of your choice. By cutting across the lifetime of the out the middleman and not having to pay commission to advisers, this new breed of pension providers is more cost-effective.

The concept has been hugely successful, prompting many others - such as Eagle Star, Scottish Widows and Legal & a turn, or profit, made by some General - to join the throng.

Like Direct Line, which has recently joined the list of direct pension providers, many are relative newcomers to pensions, such as Virgin, Marks & Spencer and investment trust managers such as Foreign & Colonial, Flemings and Edinburgh Fund Managers.

The best direct plans offer flexible policies that meet the lifestyle needs of their customers. They allow premiums to be increased, lowered or even stopped at will, without penalty. But even better, they do not carry the high charges of their traditional competitors.

But have these cost-cutting companies had the same effect as direct insurers had in the mid-1980s, of bringing overall prices down? The sbort answer is no. At least, not yet.

But the signs, albeit tentative, are that some companies are Vesponding to the telephone providers' challenge. "We've seen a move away from the horrible reduced initial allocation system," says Gordon Maw, marketing manager at Virgin Direct. "Many traditional pension providers are now introducing level initial allocation."

Under the traditional charging structure, the bulk of charges was incurred upfront. This meant that only a small percentage of your pension contributions at the beginning, the

But some direct providers or fill in the coupon below

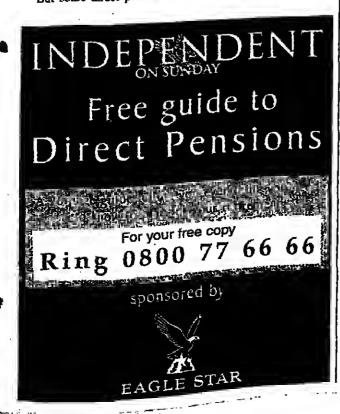
nies of levying excessive fees by underhand means. "The charges have just been redistributed policy," explains Mr Maw. He points to the fact that, unlike many traditional pension providers. Virgin bas no bidoffer spread. The spread is the price between huying and selling investments and is, in effect, pension managers.

· But choosing a pension on price alone could be a buge mis take. You must also look at the potential performance of the fund you choose to invest in. Investment strategy is also crucial when planning your retirement fund. There are high-risk and low-risk opportunities and it's possible to mix and match to get a good mixture of both with most providers.

Virgin Direct, for instance, offers just two funds - a stock market index tracker to produce growth for the early years and an income fund which investors are switched into as they get within sight of retirement to protect their capital.

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BRIAN TORA

# The bulls survive M&A trauma

Well, you win some and you lose some. Holders of Glaxo shares might reasonably consider themselves to be among the losers, even though the price has performed pretty well over the

past year or so. Still, a 10 per cent dive on the back of the ending of merger talks with Smith-Kline Beecham was hardly good news. And doo't you just love the language. Cultural differences? Failure to determine who would be head honcho in advance, more like.

Actually, Glaxo was the top dog, so it could hardly have been a surprise to learn they expected to be in the driving seat. The trouble appears to be that they wanted to provide most of the passengers as well. After all, SmithKline Beecham was oot just a drugs company. Strip out toothpaste and Lucozade from the SKB portfolio and their pharmaceuticals operation becomes dwarfed by Glaxo.

And you couldn't possihly have executives from a company where one of the best selling hrands was Ribena running parts of a multinational drugs husiness, Unfortunately, the deal had been billed as a marriage of equals, so a climbdown was the only way out.

There is certainly an insurance merger in the offing. In one of the worst kept secrets of the week, Commercial Unioo announced it would be bedding down with General Accident, Using the mechanism of a share offer from CU, a new company is to be formed eotitled "CGU". It could have been worse. In the past, Commer- Strategy Committee.

cial Union has been known as CUACO and its Pertibased partner GAFLACE Imagine gluing those two acronyms together as a corporate identity.

All of this feverish activity has been enough to push markets on both sides of the Atlantic into oew high ground. In America the hostile takeover is back - usually an indication that share prices are oversold, which couldn't be further from the

It is even returning in some measure in this country, with Argos the subject of unwelcome atteotion of GUS and some of our more enthusiastic market watchers suggesting that Smith-Kline Beecham could be in play. After all, they have been left at the altar twice. We must be getting very

blase on the M&A front in this country. But it has shown that as one door closes, another opens. Predictions that the collapse of the drugs merger would provide a ocedle with which to pierce the stock markets' apparently indestructible bubhle proved to be wide of the

The bull case was given further endorsement this week by that other insurer, GRE, offering to repay close to £200m to shareholders. Heavens knows if a bull trap exists out there, but it seems as though our rampant animal managed to side-step the opposition - this week at least. But don't ever forget that a trend is only a trend until it stops.

Brian Tora is chairman of the Greig Middleton Investment

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ND IF YOUR MIND clamps shut at the mere mention of the word Intillion, consider this: If you add future - you will see that you will almost certainly earn a fortune in your lifetime. It could add up to a million pounds - or

The trouble is, like most people you'll earn it - and spend it.

Of course, what you could be doing is taking this fortune and turning some of it into another fortune - the one you want to end up with. But you'll probably say

you've been too busy to attend to this yourself ... or perhaps managing money today just seems too complicated \_ Maybe you think you should entrust your money to

an expert. If you do, you may

be disappointed. The shocking truth is many professional fund managers are not much good at what they do. Most of them do mere poorly than the Studemarket as a whole. The only certainty about letting others manage your money is that you'll

through their fees. IN FACT the widely-accepted Random Walk theory says that you will heat the pros at picking shares by simply blindfolding yourself and sticking a pin in the share table in your newspaper.

let them help themselves to a chunk of it

incredible, but true. Look at unit trusts. The west majority of them underperform the Stockmarket in general over time. They would have actually lost you money compared to buying shares at random!

So the question is: Why pay fat commissions and "management fees" to have a so-called professional manage your

What about seeking advice from a financial advisor - someone who'll give you sound and impartial advice on what best to do with your hard-earned money. Hell, you're going to have to look authe band.

Firstly, most financial advisors aren't independent. They're not even allowed to call themselves that. That's because they're employed by the big financial fund managers to sell their products, and their products alone. They're really just

So what about those who are allowed to call themselves independent financial advisers? Consider this fact: most IFA's earn their living from commission from the products they sell. Yet some of the best investments are run by firms which pay no commission. How likely do you think it is they'll be on your IPA's shortlist of recommended investments if there's a commission-paying furn offering a remotely similar product?

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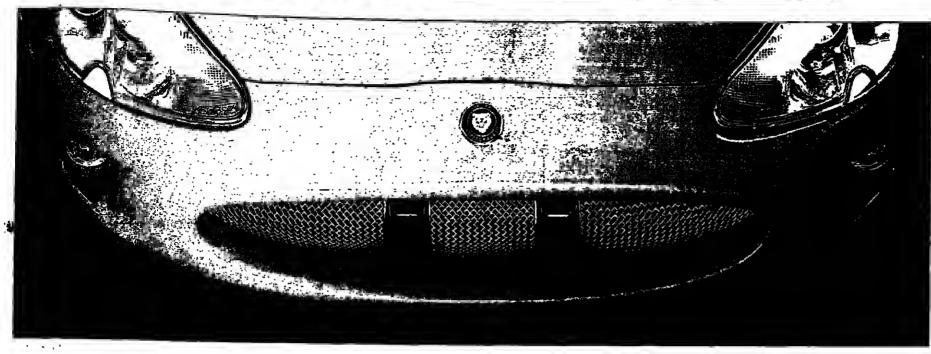
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missile: Silve Seraph, left, is the first new Rolls-Royce since 1980. 200, far left, and the supercharged Jaguar XKR, below, also took a bow at



للذا عن ألاصل

GENEVA SHOW

# The future looks wacky

Next week's Geneva Motor Show will see the unveiling of new versions of some of Europe's best selling cars. Yet the star of the show is likely to be a small-volume British luxury car.

The new Rolls-Royce Silver Seraph is the first new Rolls since 1980. It is also proof that there is life yet in the old girl who stands, arms outstretched, on top of the Rolls radiator. Rolls's owner, Vickers, also hopes it will prove to doubters that Rolls is a healthy, vibrant company that's worth buying rather than - as some suspect - a quaint Edwardian leftover. A decision is expected shortly on who will be the latest-successful suitor for the Flying Lady. car, is favourite to huy the company, although various British bidders - possibly in partnership with BMW - are also possibilities.

The Silver Seraph is a large, stately car, unmistakably a Rolls. It looks like a softer-edged version of the current Silver Dawn - in turn merely a rebadged version of the 1980 vintage Silver Spirit - but is in fact all new. Power comes from a BMW 5.4-litre V12, good for 322bhp.

The car still boasts a hand-assembled cabin, using the finest woods and leathers. It is, however, the first Rolls ever made on a moving production line - some 80 years after Henry Ford first pioneered the concept. The automated line is a new feature of the Crewe factory and is part of Rolls's drive to reduce manufacturing costs, better to enable it to compete with Germany's luxury makers.

Prices haven't been announced, though they are bound to be higher than the current Silver Dawn, which starts at £123,000. Modern the Silver Seraph may be in some ways, but it is still a gas-guzzler. It weighs 2.3 tons and produces a meagre 16.2 mpg on the combined EU fuel economy cycle. Few owners, cosseted in the luxurious cabin, thick-pile carpet underfoot, e likely to be bothered by the price of fuel.

In April, the Silver Seraph's Bentley equivalent, the Arnage, goes on sale. The new Bentley saloon uses mostly Silver Serapb mechanicals but features a twin-turho BMW 4.4-litre V8 engine rather than the smoother but less thrusting V12.

Next season's cars were unveiled at the Swiss motor show. Gavin Green previews some of the radical new designs

Jaguar XKR, a supercharged version of the XK8 coupe. The XKR is the fastest Jaguar production car ever. Styling changes over the normal XK8 include an XJR-like meshed grille, twin body-coloured bonnet louvres and small boot lid spoiler. New-style 18-inch wheels are standard. Sales start in May, at about £60,000.

Rolls's engine supplier, BMW, is also in for a busy Geneva. It is launching the new 3-series, BMW, which is supplying engines for the new the latest version of its higgest selling model, destined for the UK in September. It's a cracking car, as you'd expect, with a range of fourand six-cylinder engines. Pity it looks so much like the outgoing model, though.

Alongside the Rolls, Geneva's higgest news story is the launch of the Ford Escort replacement. The new hatchback won't be called Escort, bringing to a close the career of one of the most successful badges in European motoring history. Few details have been released, but the new Ford will be a radical-looking car and a major gamble for what was once Europe's most conservative car maker.

Less intriguing saloon and estate versions will also be on offer, when the "new Escort" hits British roads in October. The old Escort will continue in production, as a cheaper and more conservative option, until 2000.

Another likely huge seller on show at Geneva is the new Renault Clio. The little hatch has even cuter styling than before, with a particularly unusual "double curvature" rear screen, and boasts more room and better quality. UK sales start in May.

As well as making some of Europe's more intriguing production cars, Renault is probably Europe's best maker of concept cars, and can turn the apparently weird and wacky into production reality. Remember the extraordinary Sport Spider, unveiled five years ago? It's now available in Europe from your nearest Renault

The Zo is another way-out concept car that Another British star of Geneva will be the could well make it into limited production. Set

to debut at Geneva, the Zo is a cross hetween beach huggy, four-wheeled motorcycle and piece of mobile architecture. Designed by Scot Ken Melville, part of Renault's vast, Paris-based team of international designers (under the leadership of Patrick Le Quément), the Zo features Europe's first direct-injection petrol engine-(soon to find its way under the snouts of the

Laguna and Mégane).

It has heetie-wing-like "scissor" doors, that swing up electrically at the touch of a door catch, and a McLaren F1-like three-seat arrangement, seat riders behind and to the side. Other novelties include hydraulically controlled ride height adjustment, to turn your Zo from a sports car into an off-roading beach huggy. Flick a lever, and ride height rises by 10cm. One lowtech touch: there is no roof. As with the Sport Spider, if it rains you simply have to zip up your anorak. Nor is there a windscreen.

Honda is set to unveil three new cars at the Geneva Show, including a new supermini aimed at the Ford Fiesta and VW Polo. The new baby car, codenamed J-BX, is described by Honda as being "very close to a production car". It is based on the Logo model, sold in Japan, and uses a 1.3-litre 65bbp four-cylinder engine. A CVT auto gearbox may be offered

BMW

on top of the normal five-speed manual. The J-BX will represent Honda's return to the small car market in Europe. The newcomer may be built in Honda's UK factory, in Swindon. Among its rivals will be the new Toyota Funtime, to be built in Valenciennes in north-

ern France, scheduled to go on sale next year. The two other Honda newcomers at Geneva are concept vehicles first shown at last October's Tokyo Show. Both are scheduled for production. They're the RAV-4 rivalling J-WJ mini 4x4 and the CRX-based J-VX conpe.

Peugeot is showing a handsome hut unusual show car-in-Geneva, the 20Heart, which gives a good indication of the upcoming 207 small hatchback model. The Geneva concept car is a hardtop coupé that, at the touch of a butwith the driver centre-mounted and his two back ton, transforms into a convertible. Yet, look beyoud the clever roof - which stows in the boot - and you'll get a clear picture of the new 207, the successor to the old, massively popular 205, which fills the gap in the market between the Peugeot 106 and 306 models.

The 20 Heart concept car comes with either 1.4 or 1.6 petrol engines. These are all features of the upcoming 207, although that car will also get a range of turbo-diesel engines. Just as significant, the 20Heart presages Peugeot's new corporate style.

The 207 is due to appear at the Paris Show in October. Peugeot expects it to be its best selling model. A coupé version is likely. So is a retractable-roof convertible model, similar to

Registration Numbers

### A safe ride – but with the fun dialled out

Is the Carina's successor, the Avensis, any less dull? Roger Bell gives it a going over

Toyota's outgoing Carina E was to car huffs what cricket is to Americans: a home-run short of entertainment. True, it was nicely made, reliable and economical. These qualities made the Carina a sales success, but contributed to its character bypass.

Despite the E suffix (denoting that our homespun version was Euro-friendly). the Carina was never an endearing companion. A dishwasher on cold rinse aroused more passion.

So how fares its replacement, the Avensis? The change of name reflects Toyota's anxiety to distance the newcomer from the Carina. The Avensis is described in the blurb as a "dynamic new challenger ... with more emotional appeal." Let's see.

The Avensis is a neat good-looker that gets its share of admiring glances. Adventurous it is not, inside

Mainstream conservatism rules, OK, right down to the plastic "wood" on the fascia. Although the saloon and "liftback" (Toyota-speak for hatchback) are shorter than the Carina, the wheelbase is longer, so there's more room inside. By Mondeo/ Cavalier/ 406 standards, accommodation is at least competitive. Even the saloon has folding back seats.

What struck me first was how quiet the Avensis was. The test 2.0-litre GLS - at £16,845 a mid-priced model was, I swear as hushed as the £50,000 Mercedes 430E V8 I had just vacated. Efficient scaling (and low-drag bodywork) accounts for the low level of wind wboosh.

While there is oothing special about the ride, it is a lot better than that of the jiggly Carina. Exceptional comfort stems from embracing front seats and a driving position that I found close to perfection.

So, is the Avensis a rewarding drive? It is certainly an improvement on the Carina, which had a steering linkage fabricated from extruded pasta - or so it felt. The Avensis turns into corners, and sweeps through roundabouts, with much greater poise and resolution.

It still lacks the crispness, though, of Ford's excellent Mondeo. The easy controls are designed to flatter the inept rather than excite the en-

With three body styles, four engines - 1.6, 1.8 (both economical lean-hurn units). 2.0 and 2.0 diesel - and four trim packages, there's an Avensis to suit most people's needs. Even the cheapest, the £13,995 1.6S liftback, has anti-lock brakes, electric windows/ mirrors and an engine immobiliser. All the others have air-conditioning.

Anyone in the market for sound, safe, quiet, comfortable mid-range family wheels will find in the Avensis a pleasant, well-made contender. Fun seekers should look elsewhere.



Specifications Price: £16,845 on the road. Engine: 1998cc, four cylinders, 16 valves, 126bhp at 5400rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual (auto optional), frontwheel drive. Performance: top speed

125mph, 0-60mph in 9.3 seconds. Fuel consumption 34.0mpg combined.

Alfa Romeo 156 1.8, £17.573.

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Not cheap, but great to drive. 2.0 Twin Spark even quicker. Citroën Xantia 2.0 5X, £16,360. Attractive styling, lots of character, unique suspension.

Daewoo Leganza 2.0 CDX, £14,995. Keen price but Leganza lacks character and driver appeal. Ford Mondeo 2.0 GLX. £16,495. An excellent allrounder, with wide choice of

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#### MY WORST CAR: EMMA NORMAN'S MINI METRO

to be the one I drive right now, and to be honest that is my fault rather than the Mini Metro's. Come to think of it, just about any problem I've had with a car has been down to me. My very first car was a Volkswagen Beetle and that was brilliant. I ran it when I was in the sixth form at school. It had bags of character and was incredibly reliable - until, that is, I decided to hunk off school.

A friend and I took off for the afternoon and as we bombed down a dual carriageway I noticed that the oil warning light was blinking at me. I wasn't at all sure what to do next. bul my level-headed friend said I should pull over. It was too late; the

I suppose my worst car has damage had been done. I'd never realised that a car needed oil. The knock-on effects were

Not only did I bave to save up for a replacement engine; obviously I got found out for bunking off school. At least I've learnt my

lesson; these days I regularly check the oil level on my Metro. Well, I have to; the oil warning light blinks at me just about all the time. Not only that, the petrol gauge is on the blink, so I constantly have to top up with petrol for fear of running out. And the speedometer plays up, too. So as I drive around I'm in a state of constant anxiety. Will it or won't it break down? At least those

problems I can blame on the car. The rest is my

I admit it is a hit of a tip inside, but I'm so husy that I have lunch on the move and the debris ends up in the footwells. The boot looks like a cross between a newsagent's and an off-licence. That's because I eart around old newspapers and bottles for recycling.

The great thing about having a scruffy car, which even has moss growing on the roof, is no one ever bothers me for a

Emma Norman (daughter of Barry) is presenter of the Radio Times Show on UK Style, showing daily at 2pm and opm. She was talking to James Ruppert.

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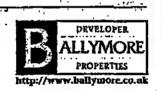
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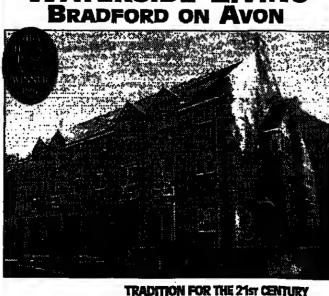
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### 11/PROPERTY

# Cheat an estate agent? You must be joking

مكذا من ألاصل

Suppose you sell your house privately, some time after the estate agent has given you up as a bad job. What about your agreement with them? Penny Jackson lays it on the line

It is not unusual for anyone living in a popular area to find a friendly note from a frustrated house-hunter on the doormat, asking whether they are interested in selling.

The prospect of a hassle-free, commission-free sale can he tempting for anyone thinking of moving, but for those who have already put their homes on the market it is too late to cut out the agent.

All sorts of ingenious and even genuine stories about Australian cousins of a neighbour, and friends who have had their eye on the house for 10 years, won't wash once an agreement with an agent is in place. Neither will withdrawing a house from the market, then selling it a few months later.

Elizabeth Moore found herself in an increasingly common predicament. She had no shortage of prospective buyers for her family home in south London, but could find nothing to huy. After months of fruitless searching and failed negotiations on the part of the agent, she took the house off the market for what turned out to he six months.

She says: "Right at the heginning. people we knew turned up saying they wanted to huy. Even though they'd heard about it from friends, we referred them to the agent. They kept in touch, and when we finally found somewhere, we asked whether they were still interested at an increased price. We went ahead with the sale and did all the negotiations ourselves. We did inform the original agents, if somewhat

reluctantly, given their non-existent role." Although the Moores felt that not to



The key to a hassle-free handover: a discussion with the estate agent at the outset should prevent misunderstandings if the purchase goes private

have done so would have been indefensitiple agency fee. "We said we would only pay the sole agency fee of 2.5 per cent." Multiple agency fees are likely to he 3 to 3.5 per cent.

Certainly, since all terms, conditions and fee structure have to be confirmed in writing, there is little room for misunderstanding. Some agents even ask the vendor to sign the document, although that is not

However, a recent ruling in the court of did not consider that it was made clear to isn't until the marketing starts that many hle, they did draw the line at paying a mulsome rather close scrutiny of standard terms. The court decided that an agent with sale selling rights was not entitled to commission where, during the agency agreement hut without any involvement by the set tends to prevent problems from brewestate agent, the vendors answered a newspaper advertisement from prospective purchasers which led to an exchange of contracts for the sale of the property after the

the vendor that he was liable to pay commission for a sale outside the agreement is for sale. But if there's very little interest period, when the introduction was not effected by the agent.

A discussion of all such details at the outing, says Ian Stewart, of FPD Savills, "Once we set everything up and produce good competition, we expect full commission even if the property is sold to a priagency agreement had expired. The court vate buyer. After all, on many occasions it

of the vendors' friends discover the house and no offers, I believe there should be some compromise."

He also suggests a break clause after a period, so that client and agent can get toparticularly with off-shore companies, who are bluntly [warned off] regardless of any reasonable.

contract or agreement they have signed."

But it is not always easy to spot even the most outrageous defaulters. Peter Young, of John D Wood, vividly recalls the only two occasions when clients failed to pay up. "One man turned out to be on the run from an open prison. Every time 1 met him at his house, he should have been inside. Once I had sold the house he disappeared altogether. I wasn't surprised to find out that he had heen jailed for fraud."

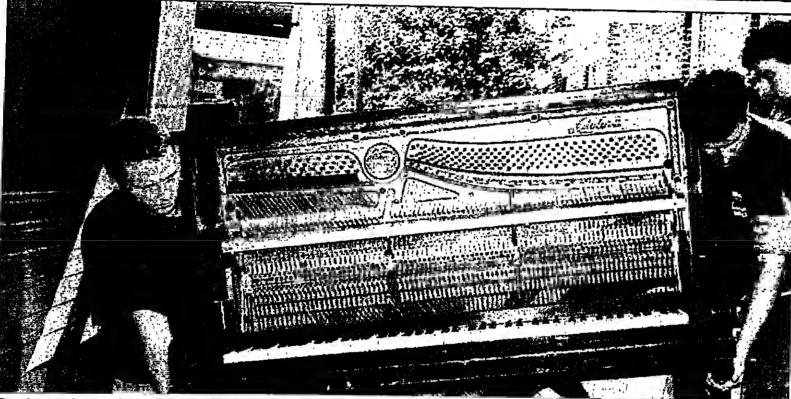
His other client used the rather more conventional deception of suddenly taking the house off the market. "I only found out years later, when the purchaser asked me to sell the same house and he produced the details I had originally sent out. I happened to meet the vendor again, and had a huge amount of pleasure in doing him out of two rented bomes."

Generally, estate agents accept that there are some customers they will lose. They can't keep checking on everyone who has ended an agreement to see whether they have sold to a huyer introduced a year ago by them. But it does seem that the very few slippery customers around are not the ones who are strapped for cash.

Brian D'Arcy Clark, of Chesterfield, had a client with a £4m house in Kensington who swore that his purchaser had been introduced by friends. "I always ask at the beginning whether there is anyone interested in buying," he says.

Colin Strang Steel, of Knight Frank in Edinburgh, still has to collect from the owner of a castle. "Alarm bells ring when clients don't live in the property, the correspondence file is thin, and the owner moves out well before the sale is completed, leaving no forwarding address."

But Winkworth, in London, could not have foreseen a protracted legal case arising from the sale of a celebrity's house. "We ran a massive marketing campaign and achieved £100,000 more than the asking price, and a letter from the owner thanking us," says Kate Clark, "He then refused gether to review strategy. "If we have any to pay commission, claiming he hadn't doubts about the quality of a client, we are wanted the publicity. In the end he had to prepared to withdraw. There are those few, pay the full commission, plus interest, plus costs." Sometimes 2 per cent can seem very



Greed or carelessness is usually involved if a move goes wrong - and it's usually on the part of the vendors rather than the removal crew

## Don't blame the removalists

not always the fault of the men who cart the furniture, says

Robert Liebman John Horsefield still recalls the most horrific move he was ever involved in. A removal man with

20 years' experience and now a trainer with Pickfords, Mr Horsefield was part of a team moving a young Mersevside family into an expensive new home. The removal men were about to start loading the truck what had otherwise been a tine joh.

Everything was going thly until the customer rived a phone call and they led out," he recalls. "They med a half hour later in k. The wife was out of trol. They'd gone to their home. The welders had working in the loft and the lation caught fire. The house burned to the

spite suddenly having ere to go, they still had to their current premises. ut aside some food and g for them, loaded the and took their belongings warebouse. We brought a local hotel, and later word into a friend's emp-

extreme and extremely

have a sadistic streak. But they go some way towards dispelling wrong, the only people to hlame are those working for the removal company.

Of course, tales of hapless removalists who smash precious artefacts are common. Yet that may not always be the whole story: when a move turns into a disaster, some form of greed or carelessness is usually involved - more often than not on the part of vendors. Anthony Ward-Thomas, the

owner of Ward-Thomas Removals, explains: "We arrive at properties that have been gutted or are a huilding site where we don't even have floorboards to walk on. The new owners have had huilders in, but the property is not ready on moving day. The owners have not inspected, and the huilders have not admitted it."

Builders are but one potential source of trouble. "It is not uncommon in winter to find that the pipes have hurst and the premises are full of water. As property, many vendors just want to get out. So they leave without thinking about things like the weather getting much colder," says Mike Potter, sales and marketing manager of Abels Removals.

The slightest disruption can affect the cost of a move: "Once trees may tell us nother even do the removal at all, even begun.

ing more than that the gods someone still has to pay. If the men are idle, we've allocated time. There's no other joh we the myth that when a move goes can send them to," Mr Potter

Wasps or bees can easily do the trick. "If the nest is near the front door where you need access, we may have to wait for a pest controller, and in some locales that can take hours," Mr Potter says. Also problematic

Stories abound of vendors who take the light bulbs, but this can have a darker side

are vendors who take their washing machines but fail to disconnect them properly. If the ensuing flood is limited to the kitchen area, the damage is soon as they have sold the contained, at least insofar as the move itself is concerned.

Stories abound of vendors wbo take the light bulbs, but this well-known phenomenon is only part of a story that can have a darker side. In addition to taking the bulbs, some occupiers take the light fixtures too. Removal men are greeted by bare we have allocated resources to wires dangling from walls and a removal and we can't finish ceilings. If it is already dark, the through no fault of ours, or can't unloading stops before it has

where everything fused as soon One of our men noticed that the fuses in the fuse box had been switched around." The individual who put a 13-amp fuse wire in place of a 3-amp wire was literally playing with fire.

Some sellers take items of far greater value than light hulbs. People moved out taking a decorative sink with them," says Mr Potter, who cautions against decorative fittings generally. "We arrive at properties and find that thieves have already paid a visit. They've nicked fireplaces, sinks, baths, banisters. There's a lot of money in architectural fittings."

Thieves target modest as well as grand properties. "Even small terraced houses in poor neighbourhoods are not safe, if they contain cast-iron Victorian cooking ranges."

Rural properties have their own peculiarities. Mr Potter recalls one move into a house where the French windows had not been secured. Evidence, most of which was on the floor, suggested that sheep from a neighbouring farm had been making themselves at home. At least sheep eventually leave. Most removal men know of families who have moved into properties where resident cats refuse to yield the vacant pos-

Mr Ward-Thomas recalls a 0171-794 0600.

Things can be worse, says Mr country move that was nearly Ward-Thomas, especially if a disastrous for the movers. "Our sale has been acrimonious. driver drove under the bough of "The sellers sometimes take the a tree, but after the truck was fuses with them. We did a move unloaded, it raised six inches and we couldn't get out. We had as someone turned a light on. to let the tyres down. When trees, outhuildings, archways and courtyards are concerned. some of our customers don't always tell us of potential height restrictions."

Sarah Kampe, whose company Moving Solutions helps people in all aspects of moving home, was involved in a recent move in which people moved into their new home and found not only that the sellers had taken the chandelier but that, in removing it, they left a huge hole in the ceiling and on the landing. "This was one of those jobs where everything was gone: light fixtures and light bulbs, loo rolls and loo-roll holders."

Even though the vendors had moved overseas, they were tracked down and had to pay pay for the damage. Ms Kampe adds: "They also had to return the chaodelier at their own

Abels Removals, Norwich Road, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6JB, 01953 882666; Moving Solutions, 56 Denton Street, London SW18 2JS, 0181-355 4477; Pickfords, Heritage House, 345 Southbury Road, Enfield ENI 1UP, 0181-219 8000; Ward-Thomas Removals, 13 Abbey Business Centre, Ingate Place, London SW8 3NS, 0171-498 0144, or 13A Heath Street, London NW3 6TP.

### The carrot and stick approach to home sales

boxy rooms may not be your selling like hot cakes. In spite of being able to sell almost - developers are very nouse they build from plans, or just before the build- Showering buyers ing work is completed, developers still appear to he with incentives. bending over backwards to give homehuyers a good deal. Fiona Brandhorst

Part exchange, chain breakers, easymovers, mas- examines the termovers, deposits paid. mortgage subsidies - the vari- Options. ations on incentives are endless. So what's in it for them? All lead to faster sales: good for the customer and even better for the huilder's cash flow and profit margins.

The same kind of deals just aren't available in the second-hand market," says John Anderson, sales and marketing director of Taywood Homes. Taywood has struck a deal with Midland Bank and is currently offering customers a competitive twoyear fixed-rate mortgage of 5.99 per cent with no strings attached. In the last four months 140 purchasers have taken up the offer. All mortgages are subject to status.

Fairview Homes will help to arrange mortgages through selected banks and huilding societies and these loans can be tied in with paying a purchaser's 5 per cent deposit or a mortgage subsidy of up to £3,000. "If someone's a bit nervous about committing themselves to a mortgage until, say, a car loan has been cleared, we can help with payments for an agreed tunescale," says Fairview's managing director Stephen Casey. "It can make the difference between buying a one-bedroom or two-bedroom flat." First-time buyers have the

most choice. "Move in for £99" deals, like those from Barratt and Fairclough Homes, have been created for ex-renters who have the income to pay a mortgage but haven't been able to save a deposit because of high rents. Contracts are exchanged when you move in and you are given up to 20 weeks to save for a 5 per cent deposit. Repayments are made to the developer at an agreed rate until the deposit is accrued and then the sale is completed and mortgage repayments start. The developer shifts his stock units and you get your flat.

New homes used to be like

All those smooth walls and There's never been scene, yet-new houses are a better time to buy- change for a hrand new two-

new cars, their depreciation was immediate. But no longer. According to figures from the Halifax, the value of new homes rose 7.7 per cent last year, whereas existing property rose only 4.8 per cent.

But hear in mind that the sample of new homes is very small so the figures can show inconsistencies from year to year. Not much consolation if you bought new around 10 years agn and, having ridden the rollercoaster, are only now seeing your property appreciate. Which leads on to probably the most popular developer incentive - part exchanges, or PXs as they're known in the trade. Read the small print to

see if you qualify. Part exchanges are often available on selected sites only and almost always within a 30-mile radius of the new home. You'll need to be moving upmarket: the value of your present property must not exceed 60-70 per cent of the purchase price (this figure varies between developers).

Barratt arranges for an "independent professional" to value your property after you've paid your reservation fee and claims to make you a "fair" offer in seven days. The company is understandably keen to stress the difference between estate agents' asking prices and actual sale prices - in other words, you are likely to be offered less than you expect.

Berkeley Homes' offer is "a percentage of the average of to know that there are still at least two independent valuations by local estate agents." Fairview asks up to three agents to value your propersalc. They are all different ways of saying that you won't be offered the full asking price. Jenny Stevens was of-

room flat in south London, for bedroom house nearby. She declined the offer and sold it with a local agent for £41,000 sbortly after.

But developers are one step ahead. Countryside Residential is about to announce a three-tier system to buy one of their homes and is "committed to offering full value part-exchange", probably with extras thrown in if you buy offplan several months before moving in. If you can't accept the offer made to you, most developers will honour your reservation and let you have a go at selling your house for a better price. If you're unsuccessful, the developer's original offer will still stand, usually up to six weeks prior to the house being completed.

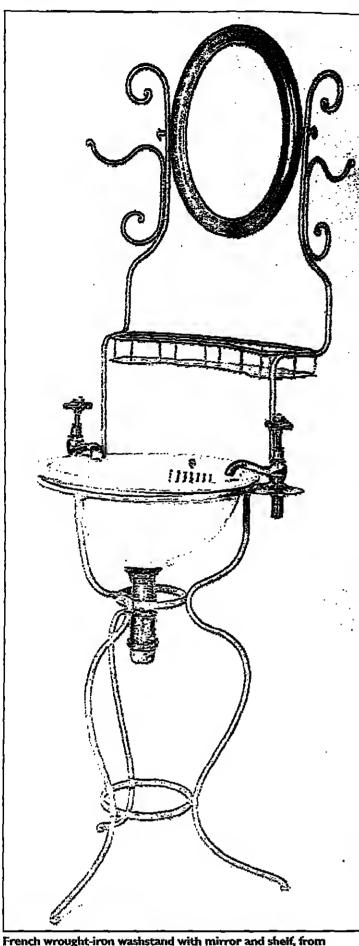
Some offer an agency selling service, saving you fees and the stress of handling the sale. Barratt has its own agency offering, while Redrow Homes is keen to promote its Mastermove scheme, where it instructs an agent to sell your home for a £50 registration fee (refundable if the sale falls through or credited against the price of the new bome).

Some developers are operating like mini-estate agents from the site office, from where they mastermind another sales incentive - the chain-hreaker. Carole Mc-Dowell, a site sales manager with Linden Homes, believes 75 per cent of purchasers are in a chain. She recently had a chain-breaker in place to facilitate the sale of a one-off house selling for £259,000 in Surrey. It involved buying the second house in the four-person chain. At the 11th hour the sale went through without Linden having to buy any property.

Barratt even has a sale and lease back scheme, where you can huy the show house and they will pay you a market rent for it until they have sold all the other properties on the site and you can move in.

Incentives aside, it's good straightforward deals. Maggie Huni bought the last twobed flat in a block in Hillingdon, Middlesex, for £61,500 ty based on an immediate after a "builders' discount" of just over £10,000. A year later, Maggie's more than pleased to find it's now valued at almost £80,000. Now that's fered £30,000 for her one-bed- what I call a good deal.

# No more maroon; give me Victorian floral



French wrought-iron washstand with mirror and shelf, from Stiffkey Bathrooms; c. 1900, approx. £850

The bathroom is the most popular room in the house, it seems. Rosalind Russell reports on bathtime chic old and new

In the curious way statistics have of throwing up oddities, it was once re-ported by the Halifax that the highest proportion of customers desperate to change their bathrooms lived in the east of England.

It could be, of course, that the east also had the densest population of maroon, navy, green and turquoise bathroom suites. Hence the desire to sling them out, soonest.

A new bathroom has held its position in the top five of most popular home improvements for several years. And recently those who have splashed out have restrained themselves, colourwise, to white, or Old English white, except for the adventurous, who have gone for stainless steel.

Colour now is restricted to accessories, where you can be as riotous as you please. The bath towel company Christy has just launched its new range, including shades called Flephant, Mango, Turtle and Periwinkle (from £16 for a bath towel) which, although they may be a little exotic for some tastes, won't give your estate agent any sleepless nights when you decide to sell.

Among the most striking design in basins are those from CD (UK) Ltd -boring name, great product - which Avante range. The basins come in standard round or oval shapes but can be made in any of 63 colours, none of which resemble Whisper Peach. The Avante Concerto has a band of sun yellow and is set into a toughened glass top on a chrome stand. It costs from £608.65. Even more dramatic is the Avante Allegro, in scarlet, from £534, but Corian can be mixed with a varand glass, to create unusual finishes.

Ocean Home Shopping's spring range includes Italian-made stainless steel basins, in two sizes, which are perfect for anyone fitting out a loft-style property. The sink comes with a top in

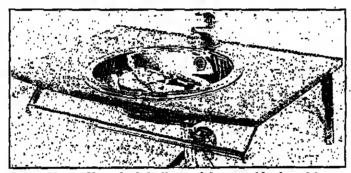


Simplicitas' washdown closet by Doulton of Lambeth, c. 1900, prices from £500, from Stiffkey Bathrooms

cherry-wood or glass, waste pipes and Jeeves radiator, which has a wooden cover plate, towel bar and wall mount- rail attached - in oak, ash or maple ing brackets; the mixer tap (£54) is not for warming clothes or towels. Prices included in the price, which starts at start from £258.05 plus VAT. A pair of £245. Accessooes to match include an Art Deco-style chrome basin taps industrial-style steel laundry bin with costs £44.99. is using Corian surface material for its cherry-wood hid (£165 for the corner (£13.95) and matching robe banger towel rail (£39.95) and toothbrush shark's head: clever, but not too jokey.

A perfect match for an aluminium or steel bathroom would he Bisque's new Cobratherm radiator. It is made iety of other materials including metal in Switzerland, and can be supplied in nine different sizes and in chrome, white or any of 1,600 other colours. It even has a ball finial at the top, to hang your dressing-gown on to warm. Prices are from £386.70.

Bisque's other new design is the



Ocean Home Shopping's Italian stainless steel basins with cherry-wood top, from £245

cherry-wood hid (£165 for the corner If you are still hankering after a model) and cast aluminium hook rack traditional-style bathroom, then Hyde and Marc Brown recondition rare (£13.95). Neatest of all perhaps are the pieces of period sanitaryware at their converted Methodist chapel on the holder (£27.97) with aluminium wall fit-north Norfolk coast. Their company, tings sleekly designed to look like a Stiffkey Bathrooms, stocks a huge range of Victorian shower baths, floral loos and Georgian bath-racks.

A French wrought-iron wash-stand with mirror and shelf, made in 1900 and converted for use with taps, costs around £850. This is where to find the splendidly named Gladiator Mulberry Chrysanthemum washdown closet (made by Porcher of Paris in 1888) and the Deluge, made by Twyfords in 1880. A Simplicitas blue-patterned water closet by Doulton of Lambeth, made in 1900, costs from £500.

Those on a tighter budget should check out Homebase's bathroom accessory department in the higger stores. A pair of Art Deco-style chrome basin taps costs £44.99.

Ocean Home Shopping orderline: 0171-501 2500, or website www.oceancatalogue.co.uk. CD (UK) Ltd: 0113 244 5337or www.about-corian.co.uk. Bisque: 0171-328 2224, or for nationwide stockists: 01225 469244. Stiffkey Bathrooms: 01328 830084.

THREE TO VIEW: WITH GOOD BATHROOMS



Designed and built by architects on the site of an old forge in Crystal Palace, south-east London, this two-bedroom loft-style house has a central spiral staircase linking the three floors. The shower room, leading from main bedroom and dressing room, has recessed halogen lights, tiled, white Sicilian marble walls and Pave mono rubber flooring. The 33ft reception room has a part eaved ceiling and a Junckers wooden floor. There are double doors between dining room and kitchen, where there is a butler's sink, a Smeg gas hob and oven, and a glass brick wall. There is off-street parking for two cars. The home is for sale for £325,000 through Friend & Falcke (0171-498 0736).



Northwood Farmhouse, on Hayling Island in Hampshire, is a restored Georgian four-bedroom house, approached via a no-through lane. The first bathroom is fitted with a Victoriana Sanitan suite, and has a free-standing enamel bath with claw feet. The floor is wood strip; there is a heated towel rail, oak cupboards, a huilt-in hairdryer and marble surfaces. The other bathroom has a Jacuzzi, star lighting above, Amtico flooring and a decorative ceiling. With three reception rooms, a conservatory and a 20ft kitchen, Northwood is for sale for £430,000 through John D Wood (01962 863131).



Raylands is an Elizabethan four-bedroom farmhouse eight miles from Chelmsford in Essex. Renovated and decorated, it has two bathrooms, both newly fitted with white Heritage suites. The main bathroom has a cast-iron, roll-top bath with an "antique" mixer tap and shower. The heavy timber-framed bouse also has three reception rooms and a 13ft kitchen, with an African slate floor, a butler's sink, and units built from old pine with granite work surfaces. There's another three-bedroom Sixties-built house in the grounds. All for sale at £795,000 through Tremhath Welch (01371 872117).



#### Remote control? No problem the chair. A new company, cl lighting and wide doorways.

It is pretty neat at any age to be able to operate the television, video security system, lighting and curtains all from one monitor. But for anyone getting on

in age it could be a godsend. At present, music, TV and lighting controllable from one switch tend to be available only at the top end of the market, where the buyer is likely to be young enough to get ont of

Kent

Mullion (01285 657576), is to build homes with an automation system, as well as adapting older buildings.

The new homes, starting at £400,000, will include a flexible "smart room", which can be adapted for various uses. For older buyers there are extras for the hard of hearing, low-lev-

When it comes to finding land or houses ripe for development, it's a tough world, but perhaps contacting someone recently bereaved to suggest they sell up is not the most sensitive of approaches. A reader from Pinner in Middlesex was dissuch as audio induction loops tressed to receive a letter from a property company suggesting

that since she was now the owner of the house, perhaps they could do business, and pointing out that they were happy to

make cash transactions. "My husband died a few months ago and I did feel upset when the letter arrived. Then I was angry that the information should be used in this way, and was concerned

vulnerable at times like this," explains Mrs Abraham.

In fact, as she suspected, the probate register is a public record and anyone can trawl through it for information. Apparently wills provide a good source of unmodernised flats and houses. The best advice seems to be to ignore such letters, or, for those thinking of

property goes on to the market The price of a play cottage so that the company can compete along with everyone else.

It is becoming easier to complain about property matters. The latest to join the line of sympathetic ears is the Land Registry, which has set up an independent complaints reviewer to listen to anyone affected that some people might be selling, to make sure your by the actions of the registry.

for children, featured in a recent article in these pages, was sent. into orbit by the addition of an extra nought. The Children's Cottage Company (0171-223) 0876) produces thatched replicas for the garden from £1,600. not £16,000 - which will come as a relief for those who may have thought it would be wiser to save up for the real thing. .

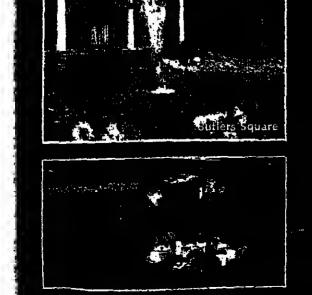
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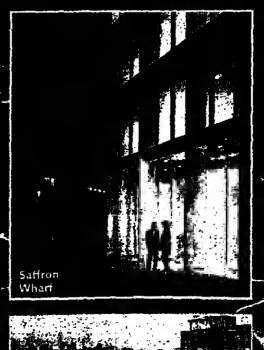


The water feature at

Butlers Square

Springalls Wharf

"View of Tower Bridge





View of St Saviour's Dock and the River Thames from Saffron Wharf

Berkeley Homes offers you an irresistable collection of highly individual two and three hedroom apartments and penthouses with stunning Thames views. All residents can benefit from private underground parking and a fully equipped gymnasium in a secure riverside environment, Just a short walk from fashionable Butlers Wharf.

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